

Sudanese rebels agree to talks

KAMPALA (R) — Rebels who have waged a guerrilla war in famine-hit southern Sudan since 1983 are ready to hold negotiations with the Sudanese government in Kampala, a Ugandan government spokesman said Monday. He said Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni revealed this when he met Sudanese Charge d'Affaires Abdul Kader Al Sheikh at state house in Entebbe. Museveni said he had received a message from John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), saying the SPLA was ready to hold talks with the Sudanese government, the spokesman said. In the message, Garang suggested that officials of both delegations meet in Kampala to prepare the agenda for the negotiations, he added. The spokesman said that the charge d'affaires promised to convey the message to his government so that a date could be fixed for the meeting. Since visiting the Sudanese capital Khartoum in June, Museveni has been helping to bring the two sides together. Political observers in Kampala said the talks would probably be held in Kampala in mid-October.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي.

OPEC plans new oil glut talks

MADRID (R) — OPEC decided Monday to hold urgent talks of a committee which includes Iraq and Iran and which may be a forum to help end their dispute over oil output quotas, a leading cause of the present world glut. After a session in Madrid mulling the excess output which has hit prices, OPEC's five-man ministerial pricing committee said it would hold further talks soon, meeting jointly with another panel — the long-term strategy committee. That group includes Iraq and Iran. One of OPEC's chief problems is that the Iraqis have refused to join the other 12 members in accepting any OPEC quota on their production. Iraq wanted to be allowed to sell as much as Iran, historically a bigger producer. The Iraqis and others could not agree to that. Delegate sources in Madrid said the planned joint meeting may be a forum to address the problem, following the recent Gulf ceasefire. Other problems also beset OPEC, including excess output by the United Arab Emirates which calls its mandated quota unfair.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Czech weekly flays Israel

PRAGUE (AP) — The Czechoslovak Communist Party has levelled severe criticism against Israel, charging it with "racism (and) terrorism." Trihuna, the weekly of the party's policy-making central committee, in its latest edition available Monday, criticised the "brutal, inhuman actions of Israeli forces against the Palestinians who have risen to defend their just demands." This "shows Israel, led by Zionists, in its true light," the magazine said. It said Israel was "a state in which racism, terrorism, torture, the expulsion of people from homes and even homeland, aggression and annexation of foreign territories is part of its policy."

Sri Lankan minister shot dead

COLOMBO (R) — A suspected Marxist rebel shot dead a Sri Lankan cabinet minister Monday, police said. Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Minister Lionel Jayatilake was killed when a gunman opened fire at his car in Kuliyapitiya, 60 kilometres north of Colombo, they said. Police say they suspect the gunman was a member of the People's Liberation Front which has been blamed for more than 400 killings in the past year.

Gayoom reelected Maldivian president

MALE, Maldives (R) — Maumoon Abdul Gayoom was elected unopposed for his third term as president of the Maldives with 96.37 per cent of the vote, officials in the Indian Ocean island group said Monday.

Sicilian judge, son killed in ambush

CALTANISSETTA, Sicily (R) — A Sicilian judge and his son were shot dead when their car was ambushed late Sunday night in what police called a classic mafia killing. Antonino Saetta, 66, president of the Palermo court of appeal, and his son Stefano, 35, were hit in the head and stomach, police said. The killers fired at least 20 shots.

Philippine rebels kill 10, kidnap 5

MANILA (AP) — Communist rebels killed 10 soldiers and a civilian in an ambush southeast of Manila and later kidnapped five army sergeants carrying a 200,000-peso (\$10,000) payroll to their unit, military and news reports said Monday. Brigadier-General Alejandro Galido said the dead were aboard a truck that struck a landmine Sunday near Armonan, about 110 kilometres southeast of the capital. Eight soldiers and another civilian were wounded in the attack. In Manila, private television station GMA said after the ambush, rebels stopped a jeep carrying the five sergeants near the ambush site and kidnapped them.

Belgium opens urban guerrilla trial

BRUSSELS (R) — Four men and two women went into a bullet-proof glass cage in a Brussels court Monday at the start of Belgium's biggest urban guerrilla trial. The trial, held amid heavy police security, opened with four of the accused defiantly proclaiming themselves militants for the self-styled Fighting Communist Cells (CCC), blamed for 25 bomb attacks across Belgium in 1984 and 1985. Appearing with the CCC four in the protective glass booth were a man and a woman, said by police to have belonged to another leftist guerrilla group calling itself the Revolutionary Front for Proletarian Action (FRAP).

Ershad postpones flood talks with India

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh President Hossain Mobammad Ershad has postponed a trip to Delhi to discuss flood prevention until Thursday, officials said Monday. Ershad had planned to fly to Delhi Tuesday for talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on a regional strategy to combat annual monsoon floods which this year killed about 2,600 in Bangladesh and hundreds more in northern India.

Kuwait puts new tanker into service

KUWAIT (R) — The Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) said Monday it had put into service a new custom-built refined products tanker, the first of six ordered from a South Korean shipyard. The tankers are designed to boost the efficiency of deliveries to the Indian subcontinent and Europe, where the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) has a large retail network of petrol stations. The 35,000-tonne Al Kuwaitiya arrived Sunday and was due Monday to begin loading refined products for Karachi, a KOTC official said.

Iran: Fence-mending in progress with U.K.

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian Foreign Ministry official Monday flew to Geneva to meet a British counterpart in what Tehran's news agency IRNA called a bid to mend ties. Mahmoud Vaezi, head of the Foreign Ministry's West European desk, will meet David Myers, British undersecretary of state for the Middle East, said the IRNA report received in Cyprus. The British Foreign Office said Friday that Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe would meet Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati when they attend the U.N. General Assembly in New York this week, a meeting the IRNA report also confirmed. Both reports said the two states may upgrade their diplomatic ties after the meeting.

Experts begin unprecedented MIA probe

BANGKOK (AP) — Joint U.S.-Vietnamese teams drove into northern Vietnamese villages Monday in an unprecedented search for witnesses of Vietnam war plane crashes in which American servicemen were lost, an official said. Two joint teams headed to areas north of the capital, Hanoi, in jeeps flown in from Hawaii for the 10-day search, said Thomas Boyd, spokesman for the U.S. Pacific command. "This is the first joint activity that involves tracking down of missing in action (MIA) cases," he said. "The teams are investigating loss incidents that occurred and trying to interview individuals who may possess information surrounding the incidents. It could result in future (warplane crash site) excavations."

Southern Africa talks resume

BRAZZAVILLE (R) — South Africa, Angola and Cuba began peace talks Monday racing to meet a Nov. 1 deadline for a U.N. independence plan for Namibia. Hopes that the three sides meeting under U.S. mediation could reach agreement were raised by a visit last week to South Africa and Angola by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

2 Belgians held in Kuwaiti kidnap case

LONDON (R) — Two Belgians charged with abducting a rich Kuwaiti businessman in Britain were ordered held without bail Monday, and a third suspect surrendered in Belgium, British police said. Eddy Doucet, 31 and Danielle Peumans, 41, were remanded in custody until a further hearing Oct. 3 during their appearance in a magistrate's court in Northampton, central England. There was no application for bail. A third suspect, Belgian jeweller Willy Schroyens, gave himself up Sunday night to Belgian police.

Israelis kill 3 Palestinians, wound 68

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot dead three Palestinians and wounded at least 68 in clashes during a general strike in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Monday, Arab and hospital sources said.

Troops made widespread use of plastic bullets against stone-throwing protesters marking a strike called by underground nationalist and Islamic leaders of the nine-month-old Palestinian uprising.

The casualties were among the most serious for months. U.N. officials said Monday they filed a protest with the army over the six-fold increase in Palestinian casualties in the past two months.

Monday's general strike was to protest the jailing of thousands of Palestinian activists by Israel. Palestinians hoisted white sheets sprayed with red swastikas and scrawled anti-Israeli graffiti on walls.

Officials at Gaza City's Shifa and Ahli hospitals said two Palestinians died from army gunfire, one a doctor employed by the Israeli occupation authorities in the Gaza Strip.

Some of Monday's most severe clashes were in the Arab Jerusalem neighbourhood of Jabal Mukaber, where police shot dead Jamal Matar Shkheir, 23, sparking an emotional mass funeral and hours of clashes with stone-throwing protesters.

The U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said the number of Palestinians shot by army gunfire in the Gaza Strip jumped from 19 in July to 130 in so far

this month. The count did not include Monday's casualty toll. Figures for the West Bank are still being compiled.

"Most of the people being hit are very young. We have raised this repeatedly with the Israelis to no effect," said a UNRWA official, who requested anonymity.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin earlier this month eased restrictions on shooting demonstrators, authorising even junior officers to fire potentially lethal plastic bullets at any stone-thrower.

Since then the daily toll of wounded has risen sharply. "There is a clear trend of a growing use of live ammunition that cannot be justified," said the UNRWA official. "Our concern is very real. This is not just a knee-jerk reaction to a bad day."

Reporting the Jabal Mukaber clashes, an Israeli photographer said about 20 stone-throwers faced off with soldiers, with the

(Continued on page 5)

Lebanese go back to work amid Hoss-Aoun standoff

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese went back to work Monday with no solution in sight to the stand-off between two rival governments which has raised fears of formal partition.

"We are still very worried, but we have to work to make a living," said Aiman Hajj, a shopkeeper in bustling west Beirut. With an adaptability learned over 13 years of civil war,

Lebanese put the government crisis on one side as they did the shopping, went to work or packed their children off to school at the start of a new academic year.

Parliament's failure to elect a successor to President Amin Gemayel, whose six-year term ended Friday, set off the worst leadership tussle in Lebanon since independence in 1943.

Minutes before stepping down, Gemayel formed an interim military government led by army commander General Michel Aoun, a Christian Maronite.

The government was intended to rule until a new head of state could be elected, but pro-Syrian

(Continued on page 5)

Aoun sacks 3 officers

BEIRUT (R) — The head of Lebanon's interim military government sacked three top army officers Monday in an apparent bid to consolidate his power. Military sources said General Michel Aoun fired Colonel Simon Kasas, chief of military intelligence, Lieutenant Colonel Georges Sbehsan,

security commander of the intelligence branch, and Colonel Louis Kasas, commander of the presidential guard. They said all were loyal to former President Amin Gemayel. The sources said the replacements — Amer Shehab, Fouad Al Ashkar and Francois Zein — were very close to Aoun.

Major arms treaty possible in 1 year, Reagan tells U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.S. President Ronald Reagan, in a farewell address to the United Nations, said Monday it was "more than a possibility" that a treaty curbing intercontinental ballistic missiles can be signed with the Soviet Union within the next year.

He called on Iran and Iraq to work with the United Nations towards peace in the Gulf, and he urged the Soviet Union to complete its withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan "at the earliest possible date."

The president also cited positive developments in southern Africa and Kampuchea and said the United States hoped for a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Turning to negotiations on long-range nuclear weapons, the president said: "I can tell this assembly that it is highly doubtful such a treaty can be accomplished in a few months, but I can tell you a year from now is a possibility, more than a possibility."

At the same time he reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to his so-called "Star Wars" space-based anti-missile defence system, which is opposed by the Soviet Union.

The president reviewed what he said has been progress toward peace in his eight-year administration, but added that "history teaches us caution" and that "even in this time of hope, the chance of failure is real."

In his speech Reagan had kind words, in particular, for U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

"Already you, Mr. Secretary General, through your persistence, patience and unyielding will, have shown, in working toward peace in Afghanistan and the (Arabian) Gulf, how valuable the United Nations can be," he

said. On a sour note, he said Nicaragua — where the Sandinista government and anti-government contra rebels continue their long dispute — was the sole exception to recent progress in major regional conflicts.

He called on the Soviet Union to help end the Nicaraguan conflict "by halting the flow of billions of dollars worth of arms and ammunition to the Sandinista regime, a regime whose goals of regional domination, while ultimately doomed, can continue to cause great suffering to the people of that area and risk Soviet-American relations."

Reagan also stepped up his campaign for a worldwide ban on chemical weapons.

He called on the signers of the 1925 Geneva accord that first

outlawed the use of chemical weapons to convene a conference to consider new ways to enforce that agreement.

Reagan also renewed a U.S. call for adoption of a global ban on chemical weapons at arms reduction talks in Geneva.

It was Reagan's seventh appearance before the United Nations. He has addressed the opening session of the General Assembly each year since 1983 and spoke at a special U.N. session on disarmament in 1982.

After his speech, the president planned to meet with Perez de Cuellar, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Abdul Meguid, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah and others.

N. Yemen announces new oil finds

SANAA (AP) — President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in a national day speech Monday, announced fresh oil discoveries in North Yemen and said reserves of natural gas were now estimated at 5.5 trillion cubic metres.

Saleh did not give details of the potential of the find, nor did he mention its location.

But he declared that before the end of the year, the first offshore oil well will be spudded in Red Sea deep waters between the areas known as Al Mokha and Al Khokha.

He underlined that oil exploration was continuing in the regions of Mareb and Jawf on the eastern side of North Yemen, and in the central parts.

North Yemen made its first commercial oil find only four years ago.

It has no fixed output, but has downstream facilities through a

pipeline with a capacity of 150,000 in 400,000 barrels per day. Its crude oil reserves are estimated at one billion barrels.

In addition to the pipeline, a floating storage depot of three million barrels was installed.

The first oil discovery was in Safer in the Mareb basin and reported in 1984. In December 1985, it was declared commercial with output estimated at 10,000 barrels per day and reserves initially put at 500 million barrels. Two years later, the reserves doubled.

In April 1986 the first refinery was inaugurated with a capacity of 10,000 barrels per day, covering 30 per cent of domestic demand.

In December 1987, North Yemen's first oil export shipment was made from a port established on the Red Sea and named Ras Isa, 430 kilometres from the oil field.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad receives Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor upon their return home Monday after visits to Egypt and Britain (Petra photo)

Their Majesties return home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Monday after visits to Egypt and Britain.

The King held talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during the visit to Egypt and again Sunday in London. The King also conferred with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on the Middle East situation and the Gulf war as well as various international issues as well as bilateral ties.

Their Majesties visited the Farnborough air show during their stay in Britain.

The King and Queen were received upon their return by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, royal family members, Prime Minister Zaid Rifal, Cabinet and Parliament members, senior Royal Court officials, the British and Egyptian ambassadors to Jordan and senior government officials.

Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker returned home along with Their Majesties.

King stresses need for united Palestinian stand

CAIRO (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein has stressed the need for the Palestinian people to crystallise a united stand so that efforts could be exerted to support the Palestinian cause in the international scene.

The King, in comments carried by Cairo's Al Ahran daily Monday, said the Egyptian and Jordanian leaderships were in agreement over issues of common interest and hoped to serve the Arab Nation.

The King made the comments to Al Ahran in London after a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Sunday.

The King and Mubarak discussed various issues of concern to the Arab Nation, including the latest developments in the Palestine Problem, Iran-Iraq

peace talks and the situation in Lebanon.

Mubarak told Al Ahran that the Palestinians had to unify their ranks and cooperate with Jordan.

"I repeat that it is necessary to crystallise the Palestinian position with constant and continuous coordination with Jordan, then with the rest of the Arab countries," he was quoted as saying by Al Ahran.

He said that once the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) solidified its position, "we will be able to support with all our energies and potentials the Palestinian cause."

Mubarak meets Thatcher

Mubarak held an hour of talks with British Prime Minister Mar-

garet Thatcher in London Monday and a British spokesman said they discussed the Middle East conflict and the Gulf war.

The spokesman said the two leaders supported the idea of an international peace conference on the Middle East under U.N. sponsorship. Both leaders acknowledged that significant progress was unlikely after the Israeli general elections and the U.S. presidential elections in November.

Mubarak also sought British support for his handling of Egypt's economy.

The British spokesman said Mubarak wanted British backing in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a gradual approach to reforming Egypt's economy.

Pakistan: 5 dead in Afghan raid

Moscow says 16 killed in rocket attacks on Kabul

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Rebel rockets killed 16 people in Kabul Monday and a senior Soviet correspondent in the city said guerrillas had seized one Afghan province and partially controlled seven provincial capitals.

In Islamabad, Pakistani officials said Afghan air force jets bombed a Pakistani border area Monday killing at least five people, including four children.

They said six bombers penetrated about eight kilometres into Kurram tribal area in northwest Pakistan and dropped six bombs.

Seven people were injured.

State-run Pakistan Television put the death toll at six and said Islamabad had lodged a strong protest with the Afghan government.

It was the sixth time this month Pakistan has accused Afghanistan of bombing its territory.

Kabul has denied the charges. The official Soviet news agency TASS said 27 people were wounded and 11 buildings were destroyed in Monday's early morning missile attack by rebels, the latest in a mounting series of rocket assaults that have killed dozens of people since July.

In another attack in Logar province south of Kabul, TASS said, five people died and six were injured by a missile strike on the town of Pulatium — in an area believed now largely evacuated by Soviet forces pulling out of the country.

News of the latest assaults coincided with a report in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda suggesting the Kabul government of President Najibullah was under increasing pressure from the rebels.

U.S. to end Gulf convoys

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan decided Monday to end U.S. convoys of American-flagged ships in the Gulf but will keep U.S. forces in the waterway to aid threatened ships, the White House announced.

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters that Reagan acted "after reviewing the current ceasefire... which has been in effect since Aug. 20, and consulting with allies and friends in the region."

There have been no attacks on Gulf shipping since the ceasefire began.

Fitzwater said the president made the decision in Washington before leaving for the United Nations, where he was to discuss the change with heads of state from the region.

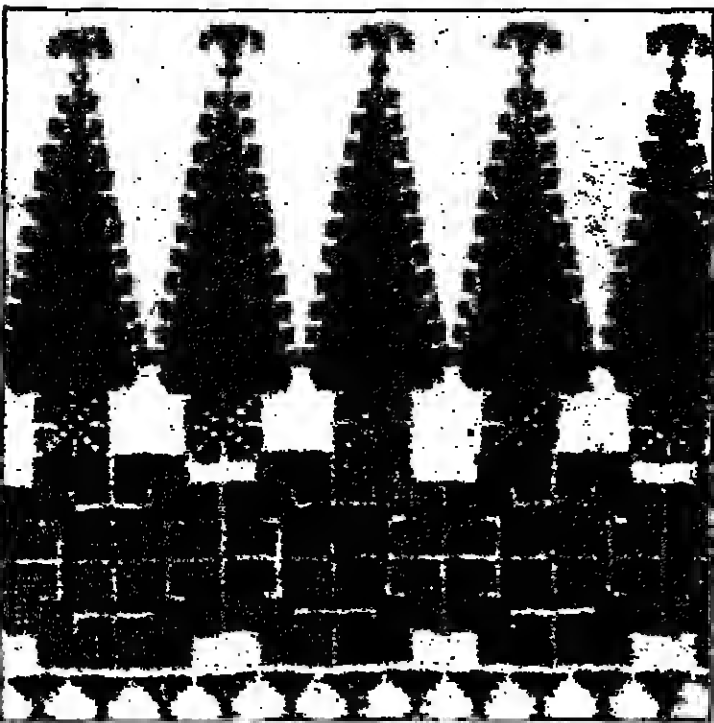
Reagan, after a farewell speech to the U.N. General Assembly, had meetings set with Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the emir of Kuwait, and with leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

When asked whether the move could lead to normalisation of relations with Iran, Fitzwater said: "We've always said we're willing to talk to authorised Iranian officials."

But he said there have been no requests from Iran for a meeting and that there has been no news regarding the American hostages held in Lebanon.

The convoy operation, begun 14 months ago, involved a precise navy formation used to protect against potential Iranian attacks. Kuwaiti tankers reregistered under the U.S. flag.

Peking Restaurant is fully booked Today, 27/9/88



By Inea Bushnaq

THERE is a bedouin folktale about a moth, an owl, a swallow and a frog who lived together. One evening, a traveller rode up to the door of their tent and they welcomed him as their guest, setting food before him and offering shelter for the night. But when the moon set and the darkness was black as being blind, a robber crept up to the guest's fine riding camel, slashed through the tethers and made off with her. The animals were awakened by the cries of their guest and rushed in every direction to try and trace the lost animal. The owl flitted over some nearby ruins, the swallow winged his way towards the grazing grounds and the frog investigated the bottom of the closest well. But it was no use. The camel was gone. Unable to endure the disgrace of failing to protect the guest in her tent, the moth flung herself into the fire. The memory of that shame still drives her descendants to do the same. Any night you may see them flying into an open flame.

Another story tells of the bedouins, in search of new pasture for their herds, who sent out a raven, a partridge and a dove to scout the surrounding terrain. In no time at all the raven was back, saying that there was not a blade of grass to be seen. The partridge and the dove had a different story to tell. According to them, a mere two days' march away was fresh grass, soft as a lady's hair. Well, the bedouins decided to move towards the grazing and found that the raven had told

them nothing but a lie, for there stretched the grass before them. To punish him for his falsehood, they painted the raven black as deceit. As for the dove, they stained her feet a pretty pink with henna dye, just like a young bride, and the eyes of the partridge they brightened with a black line of kohl. If you doubt this, you may check, for the birds carry those marks to this day.

Two unimportant tales to pass an idle moment around the evening thornbush fire; and yet they hold clues to what makes possible a unique way of life in the austere setting of the desert. Where the distance between one water hole and the next means days of travel, hospitality is no mere politeness but a matter of life and death. Guest-friendship, therefore, assumes a mystic significance. Even an enemy, once he has tasted salt at a man's hearth, will receive his host's protection. The moth's reaction in the story may seem extreme, but it is in keeping with a long-lived tradition.

Similarly, when constant travel reduces possessions to absolute essentials, and the whole community is moveable, packed and ready to go at a moment's notice, then as much as possible has to be portable. It is no coincidence that the richest artistic legacy of the Arab desert culture is its recited poetry, dating back to pre-Islamic times. Where there is no baggage space for written contracts, no courtrooms with archaic vaults, a man's word has to be binding as it stands. No wonder that the treacherous raven was painted black.

Honour, good name

While researching material for the manuscript of Arab Folktales, I was struck again and again by how much information the simplest story carried about the people who told it. For example, I found myself having to explain to my American editor why it was not horrendous that the father in a bedouin tale had killed his own son when he discovered that the youth had behaved dishonorably

Folktales... the interface of myth and reality

towards the neighbour who had sheltered him. To an outsider, the punishment may appear disproportionate; yet, when one has read a number of these folk stories, a clear picture emerges. Where material trappings are minimal and death can mow down the richest herd after a rainless spell, one of the few possessions of value a man can hold and call his own is his honour and his good name.

There is a legendary story on this theme from the sixth century, before Mohammad became the Messenger of God, about the wandering poet-king Imru' al-Qays, who sought refuge in the fortress of Samawal and left his precious armour in his keeping. After Imru' al-Qays had been killed, his enemy besieged Samawal's castle, asking for the hero's arms. But Samawal refused to betray his trust. He did not waver, even when his son was taken hostage and threatened with death. He composed a poem which ends: "I have kept my pledge and the armour of the dead Kindite. Though other men may break their promises, my word is true." And with his own eyes, he saw his son killed before the fortress wall. Every Arab high school boy can recite the first couplet of Imru' al-Qays' mu'allaqa poem, but even the illiterate know about Samawal's loyalty, which has become proverbial. What Samawal did has made his name immortal.

The importance accorded such intangible assets as "honour" and "fame" pervades even the love stories of the desert. Most familiar European fairy tales and happily ever after, with the prince marrying the princess or the deserting heroine, Arab peasant folktales, too, will close with a wedding and sometimes a little rhyme, like:

They lived on in happiness and great joy

They had many children, both girls and boys

Then Death took them who everything destroys.

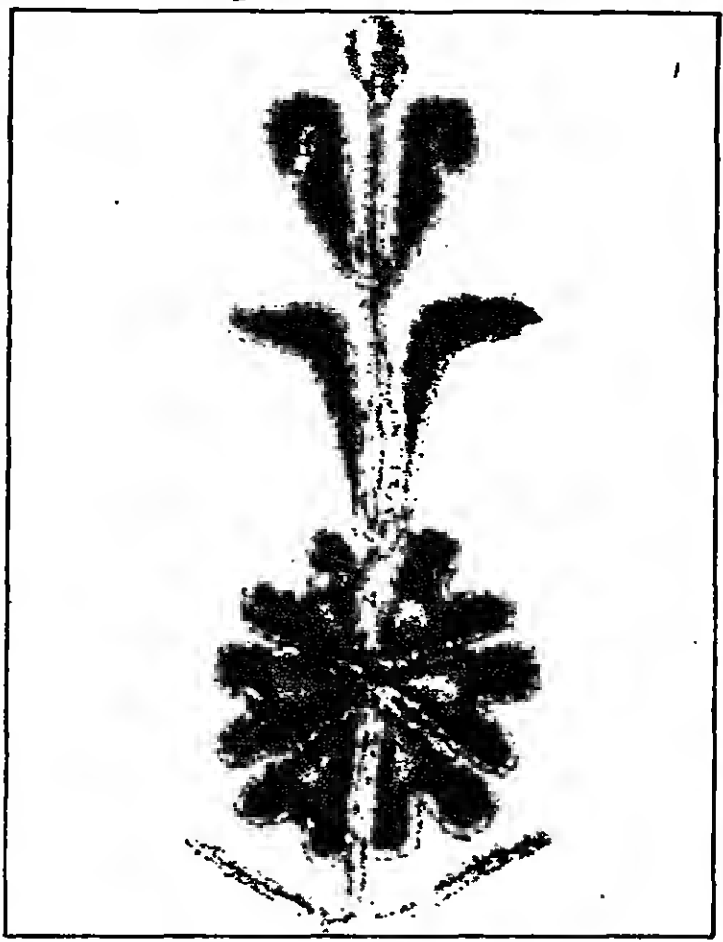
Arab hospitality

There are great love stories among the bedouin tales and there is a sound of wedding drums and celebration when the lovers are finally united, but that is not the grandest moment. Very often the woman the hero sees once and falls sick with love for is already betrothed. As likely as not, she was promised at birth to her first cousin on her father's side, which is the custom.

One of the grand moments in the stories is when the cousin, placing the happiness of the lovers above his own, foregoes his right to the girl. Aah! what a generous thing to do. Since generosity is one of the qualities

"Where material trappings are minimal and death can mow down the richest herd after a rainless spell, one of the few possessions of value a man can hold and call his own is his honour and his good name."

much admired by Arabs, the cousin's gesture rather than the lovers' wedding becomes the dramatic climax. Usually the



"Where the distance between one water hole and the next means days of travel, hospitality is no mere politeness but a matter of life and death."

cousin is then rewarded with gifts of fine armour and full-hooded horses — and maybe the hero's sister as a wife — and the story ends with a note of applause in a sentence like "So it is when men are noble!" or "Only he who is narrow-hearted and ungenerous is the enemy of God and man!"

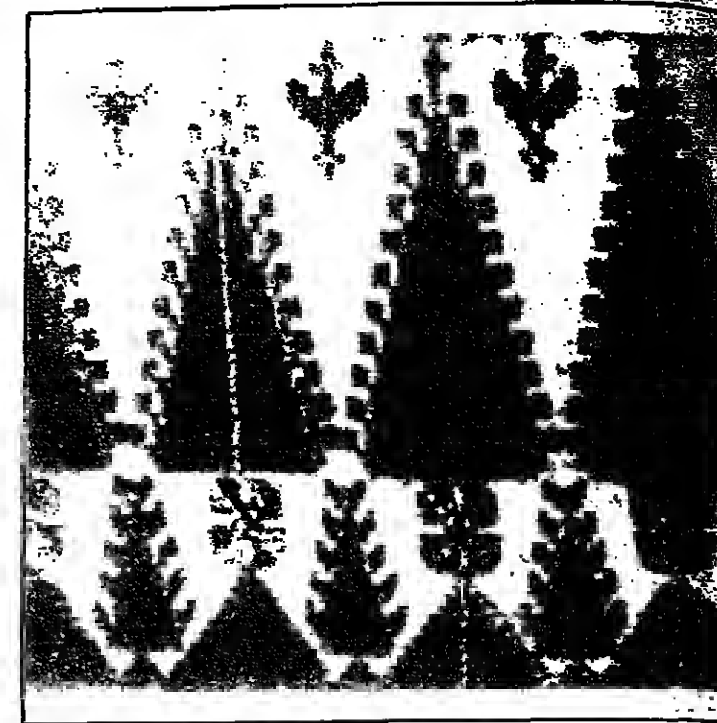
The byword for generosity is the legendary Hatim at-Tay. When his mother was a bride, she heard a voice in her dream offering her a choice: To become the mother of ten sons as brave as eagles or the mother of Hatim, who would surpass all men in generosity of heart and open-handedness. She chose Hatim.

Such is the legend. But legends are the creations of people, fashioned in their own image — as they would like themselves to be, and thus they become a standard to live up to; their function fulfilled when the line between mythology and history begins to blur. Consider the following anecdote, for example. In his book *Arabian Sands*, Wilfred Thesiger, who explored the Rub

al-Khali or Empty Quarter of the Arabian Peninsula in the late 1940s, describes the arrival at his camp one day of a bedraggled old man with a limp. Everyone in the camp crowded around the old beggar, offering him welcome, making him comfortable and greeting him with great warmth. Wondering why such a man should receive so much attention, Thesiger asked about him and was told that he belonged to such and such a tribe and was famous. What was he famous for? His generosity. He had been a rich man, but for every guest who came to his tent he had killed a camel until he had nothing left. "By God, he is generous!" exclaimed the bedouin informant, and Thesiger comments, "I could hear the envy in his voice."

They say that after Hatim at-Tay's death a group of rival tribesmen, jealous of his renown, happened to camp near his grave. Where was the generous one now, they sneered. It turned out that he was not far, because during the night he appeared to one of the men in a dream, killing the man's camel and inviting him to feast on the meat. Next morning, the man discovered that his camel had somehow cut itself during the night and was dead. So the tribesmen built a fire and cooked the camel's flesh and feasted lavishly. Later, on resuming their journey, they met Hatim at-Tay's son on their way. He was leading a black camel which he said his father had instructed him to offer to the tribesman travelling without a camel. Though his father was dead, he had seen him in a dream the night before.

Again, an echo of the legend is to be found within traceable memory, this time in some sculpted stones in Jordan. A German orientalist on an expedition to Petra in 1898 reported being shown a stone marker south of Qatranah at Mawda' as-Sahn or Place of the Platter, a spot in Jordan where "a hundred years ago," according to his guide, a bedouin sheikh famous for his hospitality had entertained the caravans of pilgrims on their way to Mecca. Carved into the ground were rough symbols representing the sheikh's lance, his pair of pistols, and the large round malfaf or metal tray on which he would have served meat heaped on layers of bread or rice. In the same report was drawing of the grave of another bedouin, south of Madaba. Three crudely sculptured panels record the hospitality of the deceased. They show a typical beaked coffee pot next to a tray on which are three coffee cups, a wooden mortar and pestle with which coffee would be pounded, and a curious ladle used for roasting coffee beans. How close in spirit to Hatim at-Tay to want to be remembered



not as a warrior or as a hero but as a host.

Clues, clues

Like the silk embroidery threads that twist across the plain homespun of traditional peasant thobes, or dresses, the folk stories are very much entwined in everyday life, even if they dwell on the more dramatic, the highly coloured events and moments. Ideal and timeless, they nevertheless pass on the clues to what is admired, what deplored, the tellers and those who listened to them. In them are contained the main traditions and, thus, the cultural identity of a people.

Though a far cry from Hatim at-Tay and other folk heroes, the fact remains that to this day in Jordan and elsewhere in the Arab World one cannot pass a humble gathered sitting in the mouth of the cave where he lives or a group of women bent over their work at the edge of a field without being invited to share a cup of coffee or a glass of tea. And still there are men living who count with pleasure the number of guests they have feasted by the herds they have slaughtered and offered up on the altar of hospitality. Such is the hold of the ancient Arab ideal that, for a man who is noble, his wealth is measured not by what he keeps for himself but rather by what he gives away.

The times are changing at a breathtaking pace, but wherever the old storytellers are giving way to other entertainers, in books or on the radio and now television, the fear of losing the old tales eventually prompts people to copy them down and preserve them. They are recognised as a precious heritage. In Jordan, interest in folklore has been growing, as the old ways slip into history to be replaced by modern methods and techniques. For almost 15 years, the Jordan Department of Culture and Arts has been publishing a folklore quarterly, *Al-Funoon ash-Sha'beya*, which gathers within its pages the texts of folk songs, the prescriptions used in folk medicine, information on food,

magic, custom and ceremonies, as well as folk stories. The Folklore Museum, beneath the Roman amphitheatre in Amman, houses an excellent collection of antique tools and utensils; and beautifully displayed, in a second museum nearby, is an exhibition of folk costumes in all their rich variety of colour and stitching.

At present, it seems unthinkable that there might be a day when the ideals of behaviour inherited from the heroic age of desert living are forgotten or discarded as out of date. After all, they are the hallmark of Arab identity. Still, it seems just as well to have reminders of the old ways in the form of stories like this one:

A prince, touring his quarter to see how his people were faring, found a woman weeping and asked her why she wept. "My only son has died," she said, "he kept me in comfort, poor widow that I am. How shall I live now?" The prince consoled her with the promise of a mule. If he rented it out, it would work for her and keep her as comfortably as she had been before. Proceeding on his way, the prince met another mother weeping over the grave of her son. When he asked her about him, she said that he used to fill his tent with guests and that the noblest men would gather at his feasts. For her, the prince could find no consoling words.

"Weep on, O mother of a generous and hospitable son," he told her, "there is no comfort for so great a loss. How can we replace a noble man!" — Jordan magazine.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
14:30 Koran
14:55 Programme review
14:55 Round-up of Seoul Olympic Games
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Programme on world news
18:30 Religious programme
18:55 Programme on Environment
19:25 Agricultural programme
19:45 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arabic series
21:30 Programme review
21:35 Round-up of Seoul Olympic Games
23:00 News summary in Arabic
23:10 Seoul Olympic Games (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO
17:50 Champs Elysees
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Card Burner Show
21:10 Floodlight
22:00 News in English
23:10 Code Name Kyrie

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW
Tel: 77111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
11:00 Just a Minute
12:00 News Summary
12:05 30 Minute Theatre
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session Cont'd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:15 Instruments
14:30 30 Minute Theatre
15:00 News Summary
16:00 News Summary
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Pop Talk
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
18:30 Music
19:00 News Desk

19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Cont'd.
22:00 News Summary
22:05 Evening Show Continued
23:00 Evening Show Continued
24:00 Close Down

WORLDNET

(At the American Cultural Centre)
09:00 America Today
12:00 Newsline
13:00 Firing Line
13:30 It's Your Business
14:00 America Today (Repeat)
15:00 The Health Century
15:30 Writer's Workshop
16:00 Worldnet Dialogue: A Middle East Agenda for the next Administration
16:45 Business Report
17:00 Worldnet Special
18:00 Firing Line
18:30 Modern Maturity

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz

07:45 Newsdesk 07:30 Without Strings
07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial News
08:00 World News 08:30 New Ideas
08:30 Book Choice 08:45 The World Today
09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Celluloid Rock
10:00 World News 10:07 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 10:30 Language Extra 10:45 Network U.K.
11:00 World News 11:07 Reflections
11:15 Tech Talk 11:30 New Music
12:00 World News 12:07 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News followed by Sport
12:45 Sportsworld 13:00 News Summary followed by Discovery 13:20 Sports International 14:00 World News
14:09 News About Britain 14:15 Waveguide 14:25 Book Choice 14:30 Citizens 15:00 Radio Newsdesk 15:15 Multitrack 1: Top 20 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:09 24 Hours: News Summary 16:30 Sportsworld 16:45 Recording of the Week
17:00 Outlook, opening with 5-minute News 18:00 Radio Newsdesk 18:15 A Jolly Good Show 19:00 World News 19:09 News About Britain 19:15 Omnibus 19:45 The World Today 20:00 World News 20:09 Commentary 20:15 Citizens 20:45 Sports Roundup 21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 Development '88

22:00 Outlook, opening with News Summary 22:30 Stock Market Report
22:45 Sportsworld 23:00 World News
23:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 23:30 Meridian 24:00 News Summary
24:05 Evening Show Continued
00:15 Just Plain Madness 00:30 Every Poem an Epiphany 01:00 World Book
01:09 The World Today 01:25 Book Choice 01:30 Financial News 01:40 Reflections 01:45 Sports Roundup
02:00 World News 02:09 Commentary
02:15 From the Proms

VOICE OF AMERICA

MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz

07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline
08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 Music
USA 19:00 News 19:10 Focus 19:30 Special English News & Features 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 Focus 21:30 News 21:40 Newsline 21:50 Focus 22:30 News 22:40 Newsline 23:00 News 23:10 Focus 23:30 Music USA 23:40 News & Editorial
24:10 World Report

CULTURAL CENTRES & LIBRARIES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267
American Centre 644371
American Centre library 641520
British Council 6361478
French Cultural Centre 637009
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 642030
Spanish Cultural Centre 639777
Turkish Cultural Centre 661193
Husseini Youth City 6671816
Y.W.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library 843555
Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation 672541
Amman Municipal Library 637111

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all

ages, plus a small planetarium at the Jaber Arts Centre. Open all year 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651702.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal'a (Clotel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Mount Zabal, Jabel Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.
Martyr's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

SERVICE CLUBS
The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Lions Palatella Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Palatella Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

PRAYER TIMES
06:06 Fajr
06:23 (Sunrise) Duha
12:27 Dhuhr
15:52 'Asr
18:30 Maghreb
19:47 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic)

Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Luweibdeh. Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein. Tel. 601757. Sunday English mass (summer time 6 p.m. - winter time 5 p.m.).
Terrence Church (Roman Catholic), Jabel Luweibdeh, mass in Italian language, meet every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622365.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman. Tel. 625383, chaplain's residence. Tel. 601359.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 711313.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 711751.
Armenian Interdenominational Church (Interdenominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. Tel. 683526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church (Church of the Good Shepherd) Amman. Arabic Service: Sunday 7 p.m. Rev. N. Smir 811295.
Rainbow Congregation. (meets at the Good Shepherd's Church)
Interdenominational-cumenical English Service: Saturday 6:30 p.m. Tel. 822605. Rev. Veli.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) Tel. 815817, 821264.

FOR THE TRAVELLER
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
07:45 Amman (RJ)
12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 Athens (RJ)
12:30 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
12:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, London (RJ)
13:15 Paris (RJ)
20:30 Doha (RJ)
20:40 Kuwait (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:15 Vienna, Miami (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)
09:15 Beirut (RJ)
14:05 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:00 Moscow (SU)
15:35 Kuwait (KU)
15:50 Bucharest (RO)
16:45 Kuwait (LN)
17:00 Riyadh (SV)
20:45 Baghdad (IA)
20:55 Damascus (AZ)
19:00 Dubai (EK)

ARRIVALS
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)
05:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

16:00 Agaba (RJ)
16:15 Jeddah (RJ)
16:30 Cairo (RJ)
16:40 Kuwait (RJ)
16:45 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
16:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17:00 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
17:30 Montreal, New York (RJ)
18:10 Istanbul (RJ)
18:30 Athens (RJ)
18:55 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)
13:20 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
13:30 Moscow (SU)
14:30 Bucharest (RO)
14:35 Kuwait (KU)
15:45 Tripoli (LN)
16:00 Riyadh (SV)
17:00 Baghdad (IA)
18:00 Dubai (EK)
18:05 Rome (AZ)
20:10 Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
20:15 Beirut (ME)
01:00 London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)
07:45 Amman (RJ)
12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 Athens (RJ)
12:30 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
12:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, London (RJ)
13:15 Paris (RJ)
20:30 Doha (RJ)
20:40 Kuwait (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:15 Vienna, Miami (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)
09:15 Beirut (RJ)
14:05 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:00 Moscow (SU)
15:35 Kuwait (KU)
15:50 Bucharest (RO)
16:45 Kuwait (LN)
17:00 Riyadh (SV)
20:45 Baghdad (IA)
20:55 Damascus (AZ)
19:00 Dubai (EK)

ARRIVALS
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)
05:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It'll be rather hot with light and variable winds. In Agaba, it will be hot with northerly fresh winds and seas calm.

Amman 15 per cent. Agaba 22 per cent. Deserts 20 per cent. Jordan Valley 23 per cent.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Agaba 42. Humidity readings: Amman 15 per cent. Agaba 22 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS
Min./max. temp.
Amman 20 / 35
Agaba 25 / 40
Deserts 20 / 37
Jordan Valley 23 / 39

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Fayed Jallugh 815541
Dr. Hussein Haddad 731267
Dr. Adnan Zaghlool 898140
Dr. Taysir Al Sa'idi 679952
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 783336
Al Asma pharmacy 637053
Nairookh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 644945
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

DEPARTURES
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)
07:45 Amman (RJ)
12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 Athens (RJ)
12:30 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)
12:40 Istanbul (RJ)
12:45 Rome, Madrid (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, London (RJ)
13:15 Paris (RJ)
20:30 Doha (RJ)
20:40 Kuwait (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:10 Cairo (RJ)
21:15 Vienna, Miami (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

EMERGENCIES
Civil Defence Directorate 601111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 198, 891228
Blood Bank 778303

Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 639141
Public Security Directorate 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12-
Electric Power 17
Overseas Calls 633101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 773111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 648411, 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-52000

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 818131/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amm. 6442816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amm. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 643362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 6672219
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Ibn Sina Hospital 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7711126
Queen Alia Hospital 60240050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071
Public Security Headquarters 630321
Telecommunications Corporation 638301

GENERAL
Ministry of Information 641467
Ministry of the Interior 663111
Ministry of Tourism 802263
Driving Licences Dept. 662311
Foreigners and Frontiers Dept. 62108
Meteorological Dept. 892408
Public Security Headquarters 630321
Telecommunications Corporation 638301

Crown Prince receives Saudi prince

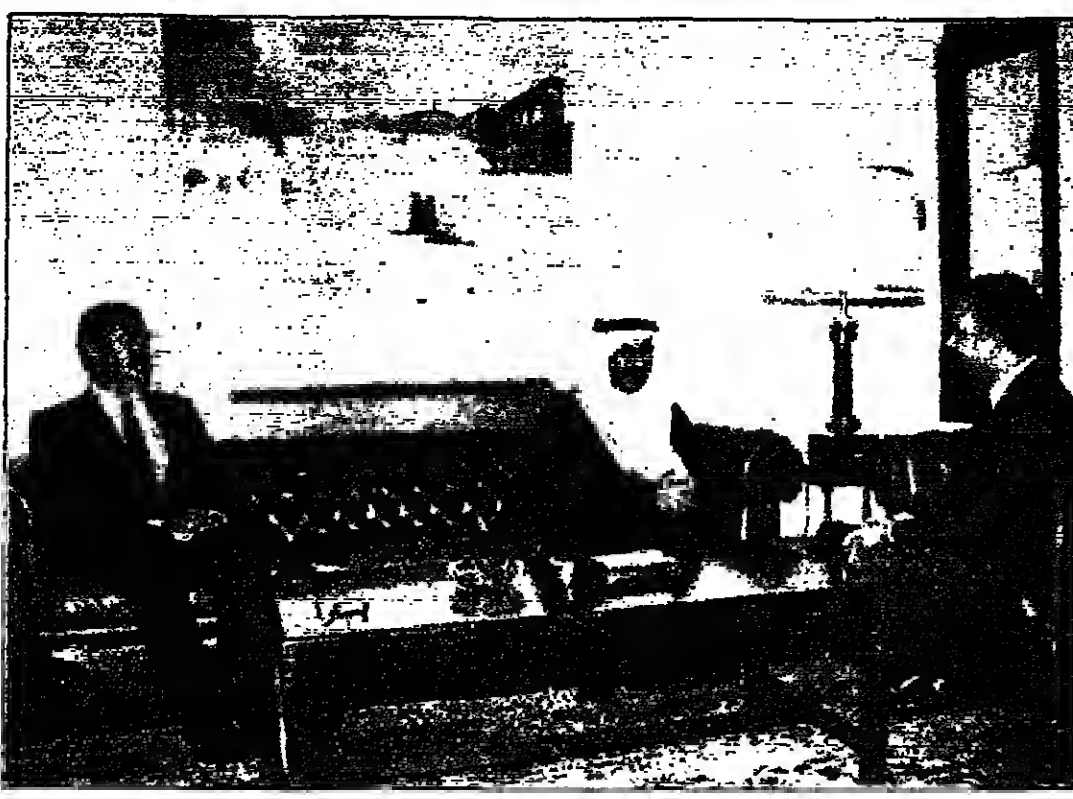
AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, received at the Regency Hotel, the Saudi Prince Fahd bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz who conveyed King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz's greetings to His Majesty King Hussein and the Regent.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation in the presence of Interior Minister Rajai Dajani and other officials.

Also Monday, Prince Fahd accompanied by Dajani, visited one of the Special Forces units. The guest was received by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Al Hussein, the commander of the Special Forces, and a number of officers. The Special Forces' commander briefed the guest on the establishment and development of these forces.

Dajani held a separate meeting with Prince Fahd during which they reviewed bilateral relations and issues of common interest.

Border security questions, transit and travel of citizens from both countries across the com-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday receives in his office Saudi Prince

Fahd bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, governor of Tabouk.

mon border and other topics were also discussed at the meeting.

The Saudi prince arrived in Amman Sunday night at the head of an official delegation on a five-day visit to Jordan for talks with senior government officials.

The Saudi prince was received by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in the presence of Interior Minister Rajai Dajani and the meeting was dedicated to discussions on Jordanian-Saudi Arabian cooperation.

His Majesty King Hussein's advisor on tribal affairs and Saudi

Arabian Ambassador to Jordan were present at the meeting.

Prince Fahd, accompanied by Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani, visited the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), and met with its President Jawad Al Anani, who briefed him on the society's programmes and development.

Anani expressed hope that the RSS will be a vehicle to launch scientific cooperation programmes with Saudi Arabian research centres.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Adnan Badran, the Higher

Council of Science and Technology secretary general, who spoke on his department's mission to link technological programmes with national development schemes.

Dr. Anani later presented the visitor with the RSS's shield to commemorate his visit.

The Civil Defence Department was the next stop in Prince Fahd's tour, and senior department officials briefed the guest on the various duties of the civil defence services to the Kingdom.

Hamzeh stresses importance of political will 'With commitment, maternal mortality can be halved by 2000'

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Commitment to accomplish" was clearly the key slogan at the end of a three-day regional conference on safe motherhood at which thirteen countries pledged to continue efforts to eliminate maternal mortality and improve maternal health.

At a press conference held at the end of the meetings, Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh said "all countries participating in the conference pledged continued commitment towards halving maternal mortality in the Arab World by the year 2000."

"It is a hidden catastrophe when half a million pregnant women die each year, 99 per cent of them in the Third World, from causes that can be prevented. We must face this with a commitment to reduce this unnecessarily high rate," Hamzeh said.

He added that in order to reduce maternal mortality by half, the most important aspect is the political will to do so. By sticking to the principle of primary health care, the minister believes that this goal can be reached.

"By developing and increasing primary health care centres, including mother and child care, and family planning, the goal can be achieved if there is commitment," he stated, adding that primary health care is very expensive.

Asked what the maternal mortality rate in Jordan was, Hamzeh said there were no accurate statistics, but that one of the recommendations of the conference calls on comprehensive studies to be conducted. These would pro-

vide the base to work with in the Arab World.

He went on to say that while the Arab countries have experts in maternity health care, international organisations — the World Health Organisation (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank — cooperate with these countries to improve the status of mothers.

"We have plenty of information in this field, and we know the causes of maternal mortality. So we are now on our way to solving this problem," Hamzeh commented.

Sudanese Minister of Health Othman Mohammed Mousa, who was also at the press conference, said that many of the recommendations, which still have to be endorsed by the participating health ministers from six Arab countries, are very practical and have crucial importance to Sudan.

"We have a very high rate of maternal mortality in Sudan, mainly because of transportation

problems, especially after the latest floods. We need transport facilities for medical teams to reach their patients in time," Mousa said.

The minister did not quote a figure for total aid received by Sudan for the flood victims, but said that "65 to 70 per cent of the relief was from Arab countries, including Jordan, whose gifts we deeply appreciate." He added that a Palestinian medical team has also come to the North African country to assist in any way they can.

The Health Minister of the Democratic Republic of Yemen also spoke at the press conference, saying that there are no bilateral health relations between his country and Jordan besides trade protocol in medicine.

"We don't have a problem with medical professionals in South Yemen, but we might lack doctors in certain specialised fields. My Jordanian colleague and I will discuss on improving bilateral relations," the minister said.

He added that his country has a "family law" by which women's rights have been improved. "For example, they have rights to education, careers, maternity leave — and polygamy has been banned. We learn less lessons everyday from other countries as to how we can improve the standard of living," the visiting minister noted.

World Bank representative Fred Sai spoke on the results of

the Safe Motherhood conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, last year, saying achievements have been very satisfactory.

"First of all, there is a keen interest in following up the Nairobi conference (i.e. the Amman conference), and the financial targets for proposed programmes have been adequately reached," Sai said.

He added that another achievement of last year's conference is that research proposals on this subject have come in, and "there is an on-going dialogue on research."

"Also, within the World Bank, the message has gone out that primary health care projects should reflect priority concern in this area," Sai added.

The WHO representative at the conference, R. Cooke, said that due to research, the dimensions of the problem are coming into clear focus, and that concerned parties are "gathering know-how in techniques that would be applicable in the developing countries."

"There has been a growing commitment since the Nairobi conference, and we are hardening both our commitment and our knowledge," Cooke said. He added that countries like Sweden and Norway have also increased the proportion of aid they allocate to the improvement of maternal health in developing countries.

Seminar to discuss Arab World political regimes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on political regimes in the Arab World will open Tuesday at the Regency Hotel in Amman under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

The Seminar is organised by the Arab Political Science Association in cooperation with the University of Jordan according to the association's executive board director Professor Kamel Abu Jaber.

Abu Jaber told the Jordan

Times that Prince Hassan will deliver the opening address to the meeting which is expected to last three days.

The meeting he added will tackle the political situations in different parts of the Arab World, regional and international developments and inter-Arab relations.

Abu Jaber said working papers from Algeria, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Jordan and other Arab states and the Arab League will be reviewed by the participants.

Jordan to mark Arab Child Day on Oct. 3

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will celebrate Arab Child Day on Oct. 3 under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor under the slogan "the development and protection of children — a national priority," according to an announcement here Monday by Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).

The announcement said that the celebration comprises a set of programmes which include book

and art exhibition for children, children plays and competitions, health and social activities, seminars and lectures in a number of regions.

The event, the announcement said, aims to orient the members of the public on the importance of child care and to underline the importance of family participation in child care and services programmes.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS RECEIVED: Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Dhuqan Al Hindawi Monday discussed with Kuwaiti Ambassador in Amman Sulaiman Salem Al Fisan existing relations and means of developing them, particularly in education. He also received Omani Ambassador Bashir Faraj and UAE Ambassador Abdullah Al Shurafa at the end of their tour of duty.

COUNCILS APPRECIATE DEBT WAIVER: Heads of municipal councils in Irbid met to discuss the government's decision to waive JD 13 million owing from water bills and land appropriations, and later sent cables to His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai expressing appreciation and gratitude.

RALLY IN SALT: A public rally was Monday held at Ughah Ibn Nafi secondary school in Salt in support of the Sudanese people. The governor of Balqa delivered a speech explaining the scale of damage to the Sudanese economy as a result of the latest floods. Other speeches were also delivered urging the citizens to make contributions to the Sudanese people. It was decided, during the rally, to form 14 committees from various parts of the governorate to collect contributions.

WASTEWATER SEMINAR: Participants in a seminar on the recycling of treated wastewater Monday heard a number of lectures and reviewed working papers dealing with germs in waste water, means of protecting the public and harmful effects on the agricultural products.

KHATIB RETURNS FROM SWEDEN: Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib returned to Amman Monday following a visit to Sweden where he discussed Jordanian-Swedish cooperation in solving environmental problems.

MA'AN EDUCATION: The Ministry of Education has embarked on a number of projects in Ma'an governorate at the cost of JD 926,000. The ministry is setting up a new educational department, warehouses, and a library.

ISLAMIC EXHIBITION: An Islamic book exhibition and charity bazaar were Monday opened at the University of Jordan's Islamic Cultural Centre with books covering a wide-range of subjects.

FUHAIS TROUPE TO VISIT IRAQ: The Fuhais folk troupe will take part in the Babylon cultural festival in Iraq and will present a number of performances and national dances. The troupe, which was created in 1982, has taken part in similar festivals in Jerash, and Carthage in Tunisia.

FOOD CONTAMINATION: The Zarqa municipality has destroyed three tonnes of contaminated food supplies found to be unfit for human consumption. Municipality health officials said a total of 25 tonnes of rotten food has been destroyed in Zarqa since the beginning of 1988.

AZRAQ COOPERATIVES: The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Monday organised a seminar in Azraq for local cooperatives to discuss their activities and programmes. The seminar dwelt particularly on the activities of the Azraq society for salt refining which has been operating a JD 914,000 plant, and another by a cooperative society for breeding fish in fresh water, a project which cost JD 109,000.

CENTRAL HEATING: The Housing Corporation Director General has set up technical committees to supervise the operation of central heating systems for the Abu Nuseir housing estate north west of Amman. He said that the committees will take charge of the boilers, and the central heating networks as of the beginning of next month.

UNIVERSITY CONSULTATIONS: The University of Jordan and the Italian University of Trieste Monday signed in Amman a programme for scientific and technical cooperation between the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan and the Desert and Desertification department at Trieste University. The programme includes cooperation and coordination in the field of scientific research, and combat of desertification. Earlier, the university's Vice President for Administrative Affairs and Dean of Students Affairs Monday met with the visiting Vice President of Al Zaqqazig University in Egypt, and an accompanying delegation.

Concorde lands in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra, J.T.) — A British Airways Concorde landed here Monday with 100 tourists, who will spend four days in Jordan touring archaeological sites and other places of interest.

The Concorde trip, which is organised in cooperation with Goodwood Travel Agency of the U.K., is the second of its kind to Jordan following a similar successful trip organised by the agency last year on His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, which falls on Nov. 14.

Minister of Tourism Zuhair

Aljouni was at Aqaba to welcome the visitors along with a number of local officials.

The tourists were presented with bouquets of flowers upon disembarking from the plane as the Public Security Department brass hands played national tunes.

The tourists will be taken to sites in Aqaba, Petra, and Wadi Rum, before flying by Concorde to Amman to visit Jerash, the Dead Sea and other areas. The tours include a trip by train to a number of regions.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Art exhibition: "Contemporary Arab Artists," at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- * Art exhibition by Omar Al Basoul, at the Housing Bank Complex.
- * "The Individual, Sport and Olympic Games" Book Exhibit, at the American Centre.
- * Book exhibition, at the Professional Association Complex.
- * Book exhibition, at Al Walaja Cooperative Society, Jabal Nuzha.
- * Folkloric exhibition, at the Al Manarah Social Development Society, Al Manarah.
- * Photo exhibition entitled "Tourist Tours" to mark the World Tourism Day, at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Shamseddine, at the Petra Bank Gallery.
- * An exhibition of antiquities of Tell Abu Hamid agricultural settlement in the Jordan Valley, at the French Cultural Centre.

MUSIC

- * America's music "Dixieland," at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

FILM

- * Polish film, "An Epiphany for Barbara Radzvil, Drama," at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- * A film entitled "In the Middle of the Heart," at the Goethe Institute — 8:30 p.m.
- * A film entitled "Animal Farm," at the British Council — 7:00 p.m.
- * A feature film (video) on Soviet art, at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:30 p.m.

DIALOGUE

- * Dr. Mubarak Awad and Mr. Eisenstat exchange views with Dr. Walid Al Sa'di on the Middle East peace process and the Palestinian question, at the American Centre — 4:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- * Dr. Moawiyah Ibrahim gives a lecture on "Post-Tell Abu Hamid and early City-States in Jordan," at the French Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.

Diplomats' club reopens in Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Diplomats came together Monday evening at the first meeting of the season for the International Club for Diplomats.

The cocktail party, held at the Holiday Inn, marked the opening of the fifth season of the International Club for Diplomats, which was established for "social and cultural reasons."

According to the president of the club's steering committee, Nagui Al Gharifi, the club was started because social round in Jordan was quiet, especially for younger diplomats.

Over the past five years, the club has expanded to include over 60 male and female members, who attend on average once a month.

Activities include cocktail parties, dinner and dance, lunches with speakers, excursions to sites throughout the Kingdom and trips around the region, said Gharifi who is presently counselor at the Egyptian embassy.

Several activities are sponsored by the various ministries. "We are given every assistance including lunch and transportation," said former steering committee president, David Whitehead, who is also Information Officer at the British Embassy.

In addition, the club, which is restricted to diplomats in Jordan (ambassadors excepted), provides its members with a "discount list" of bookstores, hotels, supermarkets, doctors and dentists.

"Individual (professionals and owners) have offered discounts for the club members," said Whitehead.

Speaking in his individual capacity as a club member, Whitehead voiced his appreciation for the availability of such club in Jordan.

"The club has grown over the past two to three years. There are many events, such as visiting the King Hussein Bridge, which we would not have been able to do without the club," said Whitehead who described other events held by the club as "superb."

Activities are compiled in a programme during the steering committee's monthly meeting. Each committee is elected for a one year term, renewable for an additional term, by the members during a general meeting towards the end of April or beginning of May.

The club is not housed on any individual property. Whitehead said that hotels or any other available space is used.

Bulgaria praises Jordan's efforts for Mideast peace

SOFIA (Petra) — Bulgaria's first Vice-President Petar Tanchev has paid tribute to Jordan's contribution to establishing peace in the Middle East, and referred to His Majesty King Hussein's talks with Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev during his visit to the Soviet Union as having had a great impact on Bulgaria and the rest of the world.

Tanchev was speaking during a meeting with Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi and the Jordanian delegation to the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in the Bulgarian capital.

"The whole world is now oriented towards peace and the end of all conflicts and sources of tension, especially in the wake of the superpower summit conference in Moscow," Tanchev

noted. He said Bulgaria hopes that peace will be established in the Middle East region.

"Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territories and its repressive measures against the Palestinian people ran contrary to the peace-oriented world community's objectives and aspirations, and the Jewish state's expansionist policies in disregard of international public opinion is totally unrealistic," Tanchev added.

The Bulgarian leader renewed an invitation from the Bulgarian president to His Majesty King Hussein to pay an official visit to Bulgaria, a visit which, he said, would have a great political significance.

For his part, Lawzi voiced Jordan's deep appreciation of Bulgaria's support for the just Arab

causes and the Palestinian people. "Jordanian-Bulgarian relations are unique, and aim at serving the cultural and trade interests of the two countries."

Referring to the 750 Jordanian students studying in Bulgaria, Lawzi said they were enjoying good care and hospitality from the host country.

Referring to the Middle East question, Lawzi noted that His Majesty King Hussein was oriented towards regional and international peace, and is keen on removing all sources of tension world-wide. "For this reason, he was intensifying his efforts with the Western and Eastern countries to stop the Iran-Iraq war, end the Afghanistan conflict, and he continues his endeavours to bring peace to the Middle East region."

Abu Taleb receives French army chief

AMMAN (Petra) — French Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gilbert Forray met in Amman Monday with Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb and heard a briefing on the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The French guest was officially welcomed upon arrival at the armed forces general headquar-

ters where he met with senior army officers.

Forray later visited the Martyr's Monument and inspected items on display inside the monument relating the story of the Jordanian Armed Forces development and different types of weapons used by them over the years.

Accompanied by French

Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Leclercq, Forray visited the Royal War College and was briefed on its duties and programmes.

Forray, who arrived here Sunday evening on a four-day visit to Jordan, will later meet with other Jordanian officials and tour military positions and archaeological sites in the Kingdom.

JAMPCO concludes new deal to export vegetables to Europe

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO) has concluded contracts with countries of the European Community (EC) as well as Sweden and Austria to sell them 5,000 tonnes of Jordanian agricultural products in the 1988-1989 agricultural season, JAMPCO Director General Obadi Abu Hassan announced Monday.

He said that as of early November 1988, JAMPCO will start shipping tomatoes, cucumbers, sweet and hot pepper, beans, eggplants and marrows, and contacts are underway to sell other shipments to Holland and Belgium later on.

Contacts are also underway with Lebanon to sell Jordanian crops in return for Lebanese apples, Abu Hassan noted.

He said plans are being made to import 5,000 tonnes of apples, and 400 tonnes of garlic from Syria in partial settlement of the cost of Jordanian products imported earlier by the Syrian State Corporation for Fruits and Vegetables.

Jordan earlier this month sent an experimental shipment of agricultural products to Djibouti via Egypt, and plans are underway to organise future shipments by air directly to that country, Abu Hassan added.

Referring to the new agreements with the European Com-

munity (EC) Abu Hassan said

JAMPCO had been in the practice of bartering agricultural crops with those countries for their fruit imported by Jordan, but after the latest agreement the Europeans will settle the deal in foreign currency now that European markets have become familiar with the high-quality Jordanian products.

Abu Hassan said JAMPCO, which takes charge of import-export operations and meeting the needs of the local market of agricultural produce, has recently interfered with local merchants who used to sell locally produced apples for exorbitant prices.

The local merchants used to store large consignments of apples, supplying the markets only with a trickle so as to ensure the largest possible profit margin, Abu Hassan explained.

JAMPCO solved the problem by purchasing the apples directly from the local farmers selling them in the market for reason-

able prices, he added.

On JAMPCO's programmes, Abu Hassan said the company has received 42,665 tonnes of locally produced tomatoes from the Jordan Valley and the high regions during the present season, which will be processed at the company plants.

The company also produced 5,849 tonnes of tomato paste of which 2,000 tonnes have been exported to Egypt and 1,000 tonnes to Iraq at competitive prices, while it offered the rest for sale in the local markets, Abu Hassan pointed out.

He said the company has finalised work on a fruit juice processing plant which will start production by Jan. 15. "This plant will have a capacity of 20,000 tonnes of juice annually, and will be processing fruits produced in the Jordan Valley, Abu Hassan noted.

He said contacts are underway to market the plant's products.

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Editorial Director:
RAKAN AL MAJALI

Director General:
RADI AL WAQFI

Editor-in-Chief:
RAMI G. KHOURI

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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Lebanon — a temporary split?

THE failure of the Lebanese parliament to elect a new president prior to the end of the term of President Amin Gemayel September 24 has brought Lebanon, the whole of Lebanon, into yet another abyss.

The string of crises which erupted some fourteen years ago in Lebanon does not seem to end in spite of its high cost in human and material terms. The latest paralysis in the Lebanese political structure gave birth to two "governments" competing for acceptance, recognition and legitimacy, both locally and internationally.

Some observers view this most recent setback as an additional degeneration that could herald a de facto partition of Lebanon. This pessimistic projection may not be borne out by developments in Lebanon, as negative and as serious as they are.

To begin with, both rival governments of Prime Minister Salim Hoss and General Michel Aoun, who was also appointed as prime minister by ex-President Gemayel literally minutes before the end of his six-year term of office, view themselves as temporary and transitory, with the sole purpose of acting as caretaker governments until true legitimacy is restored to Lebanon upon the election of a new president.

Moreover, both Hoss and Aoun regard themselves as the governments of the whole of Lebanon, thus repudiating the thesis that the existing political phase in Beirut is a prelude to a de jure partition of Lebanon. Both "governments" are engaged in contacts with major powers internationally and regionally, including Syria, which enjoys a special role in Lebanon.

Under these circumstances, the energies of both "governments" must converge on the election of a new president in the shortest possible time, as the only viable and permanent guarantee against the division of Lebanon by petty sectarian and special interests.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

TWO of the local Arabic dailies Monday commented on the government's decision to write off bills due for payment by municipalities, describing it as a constructive step to promote the work of municipalities. The decision means that the government realises the heavy burdens shouldered by the local councils and strives to help them carry out their duties. Al Ra'i daily said in its editorial. But it said this decision should prompt all citizens to pay their dues to the municipal councils and cooperate with them in a manner that would ensure the continuation of such services. The decision also means that the local councils can now benefit from government assistance for two years, which serves as a breathing space, enabling them to reorganise their work and resume full services at the best possible level, the paper added. The newspaper concluded by saying: "The government decision came at a time when the councils were in utmost need of financial help, thus reflecting a genuine keenness by the Kingdom's leadership in helping local councils."

For its part Al Dustour daily said that writing off some JD 13 million due for payment by municipalities for land appropriation and water bills, has removed a heavy burden from the local councils. This step will no doubt give these councils a new impetus and a new opportunity to carry out projects and fulfil their mission, the paper noted. It described this step as positive and reflecting His Majesty King Hussein's keenness on caring for his people.

Al Shabab daily referred to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's visit to the Jordan University of Science and Technology Sunday and his speech in which he advocated proper planning for all projects. The paper lauded the Prince's idea of offering students a chance to move to their own environment and offer services to their local community. Prince Hassan's call for the employment of conscripts and other young men and women in various social and economic services is bound to gain the youth considerable experience in life, enabling them to adapt to future needs, the paper concluded.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Yes for a Palestinian state

A GUEST columnist for Al Dustour Arabic daily calls on the Palestinians to be realistic and accept the idea of recognising Israel in return for an independent Palestinian state. Nimer Serhan says in his article: "I do not speak on behalf of all the Palestinians but as a single individual in a future Palestinian state for which we are paying in blood and sufferings. In return for an independent state in Palestine... I say... we ought to recognise Israel; and had I been a member of the Palestine National Council which is to convene shortly I would strongly advocate my views." Serhan adds. The writer expresses the view that the establishment of an independent Palestinian state can never come about under the present circumstances without recognising Israel. "I would say to those who demand a liberation of Palestine from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean, that they represent our people's conscience and strategy; but we will suffice ourselves for now with a Palestinian state given us under the U.N. partition resolution, even with just setting up a state in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem," Serhan points out. Let us take a lesson for Saladin who fought the Crusaders, says the writer, and let us accept what is possible at the present. Should we refuse this form of state, he says, we are bound to regret our action as we did when we refused the 1947 partition resolution. Therefore the writer concludes let us be realistic and benefit from the intifada in the occupied Arab lands to set up our independent state.

They kill prisoners too

Editor's Note: The Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre (PHRIC) in Jerusalem has been publishing an "uprising update," which aims to clarify the existing human rights situation as it develops in the occupied territories, as the uprising entered its ninth month. The information bulletin is distributed in cooperation with the Database Project on Palestinian Human Rights, whose international office is in Chicago. These updates are being published in the Jordan Times as they are received. Included in these information bulletins are lists of those killed during the uprising, as confirmed by the International Committee of the Red Cross, lists of detainees, and updated human rights reports as they develop. While some sources and background material is publicly available, most of the information comes from first hand reports, fieldworker visits to hospitals, refugee camps, towns and villages, and from working relationships between the PHRIC and other institutions in the occupied territories. The material is collected and verified in Jerusalem and sent to Chicago, where the updates are produced and distributed internationally.

DEATHS IN PRISON: Five people died in prison between Aug. 11 and 21. Two were shot in Ansar 3; the Israelis claimed two more as suicides; and the question of custody in the fifth case is unclear.

Reports on the Aug. 16 Ansar 3 killings have remained confused. Asad Jabri Shawwa, 25, from Sheja'iya and Ibrahim a-Sumoudi, 27, from Yamoun were shot, at least one of them at very close range. Attorneys were prohibited from visiting the camp Aug. 17 and have had visits and conversations strictly supervised and censored since. Soldiers who spoke informally with attorneys Aug. 17 said that the deaths occurred in Section B, which contains both Gaza and West Bank prisoners, and that the person who shot at least one of the two men was standing very close to David Tsemach, the commander of the prison. They said that the prisoners did not attack the soldiers but at the end of the ICRC visit had begun shouting about the deaths in Or Yehuda and about conditions in Ansar. With-in five minutes two men had been killed and another seriously wounded and many were overcome with tear gas. The soldiers said that a-Sumoudi had been killed by tear gas but according to his family he was shot.

According to other reports conflict erupted over the question of the prisoners working on the camp. Tsemach, with another two officers, Ratz and Elon, plus 15 soldiers, opened fire on the prisoners. According to this source 19 were injured; 26 suffered burns from tear gas; and 630 were affected by tear gas.

Prisoners in Section B were on hunger strike Aug. 16 and 17; prisoners in another section have been on intermittent hunger strike since the beginning of August in support of their refusal to build the winter prison and in protest against general conditions in the prison. According to the soldiers, prisoners in Section B were also refusing to come out of their tents either for the counts or for other purposes.

This is not the first time that Tsemach is personally accused of brutality against prisoners. On July 25, for example, Tsemach, accompanied by a large number of soldiers, raided Section D; the soldiers threw tear gas canisters and beat prisoners. According to attorney's reports, Tsemach bru-

tally beat three prisoners who were then placed in solitary confinement for four days. The screams and moans of these men were heard all over the prison for the next three days.

The killings occurred two days after the High Court decided that judges should visit the prison to investigate complaints about conditions. No date had been set for the visit. The Lawyers Committee for Human Rights was scheduled to visit on Aug. 17; they were unable to get in.

The family of Nidal Jamil Mustafa Bedah, 20, from Beit Hanina, heard of his Aug. 16 death in Moscoviya on the radio. The Israelis claimed he had committed suicide in prison, hanging himself with a sheet. According to his wife the radio announcer mispronounced the name; she was convinced it was not her husband. Bedah had been arrested less than a week before, at 11:30 p.m. Aug. 9 police and borderguards came to the house in the course of arresting 20-30 young men from the neighbourhood. They asked if there were any men in the house. None of the men was home. The police then left a paper summoning Bedah and his father to the Moscoviya the next morning; they said it concerned the insurance on the car. The two reported to Captain Eddie at 9:00 the next morning. The father was questioned for several hours and released. Bedah was detained. Two days later the detention was extended. When the family protested to their attorney, Mohammad Abu Ghosh, he replied, "Why are you worried. This isn't an Arab country. They won't kill him." The family does not believe Bedah killed himself; according to them he had no reason to. The day before his death he had asked for clean clothes and cigarettes. When the family received the body Bedah's teeth were missing and his head had been severely disfigured from beating. Demonstrations erupted at the funeral Aug. 17.

The death of Atta Yusuf Ahmad Mohammad Iyad, 21, from Kalandiya, Aug. 11 in Dhahariya prison, was also announced as suicide. Prisoners released from Dhahariya say that Iyad had been under interrogation for over 50 days. Early in the interrogation he had become partially paralysed as a result of a

head injury; he was unable to stand or speak. He was also injected with an unknown substance. Fellow prisoners who demanded medical treatment for him were transferred from Dhahariya. The ICRC was also not permitted to see him. Iyad spent long periods in solitary confinement. The day he died he was taken to interrogation and beaten by two Shin Bet agents and soldiers; they then left the room, throwing tear gas into it. Prisoners in nearby rooms were overcome by the tear gas. After a time the soldiers and Shin Bet returned. They took Iyad outside, bound him hand and foot and continued beating him. About eight soldiers were involved. They then put him in solitary, still bound, and threw more tear gas in. Two hours later he was dead."

"Iyad spent long periods in solitary confinement. The day he died he was taken to interrogation and beaten by two Shin Bet agents and soldiers; they then left the room, throwing tear gas into it. Prisoners in nearby rooms were overcome by the tear gas. After a time the soldiers and Shin Bet returned. They took Iyad outside, bound him hand and foot and continued beating him. About eight soldiers were involved. They then put him in solitary, still bound, and threw more tear gas in. Two hours later he was dead."

21.

Maysara Ahmad Mattar, 25, from Sheikh Radwan, had not returned from his work in Tel Aviv between Aug. 12 and 19. The family was summoned to the military governor Aug. 19 and told to go to Jaffa to put up bail for him. When they went there soldiers told them he was not there but in Abu Kbir; that he was not arrested but dead. Abu Kbir refused to release the body to the family. They went back to Gaza, where the military governor told them they would receive the body after the beginning of the nightly curfew. They received the body Aug. 21.

OTHER DEATHS: Hanni Adel a-Turk, 37, from Gaza City, was shot July 25 in the shoulder, stomach and leg; he died July 28 in Ahli hospital. Abdul Fattah Yusuf Alayan, 24, from Deir Abu Daif (Jenin), was shot in the head July 20 and died July 28. He was buried at 8:00 p.m. with a huge demonstration. Ribhi Barakat Ka'ed, 67, an American citizen of Palestinian origin visiting from



Columbus, Ohio, was trying to release his grandson from soldiers in Beitin July 31, when he had a heart attack and died. Ala'addi Al Aghbar, 18, from Nablus, was shot in the stomach Aug. 2 and died in demonstrations protesting the Aug. 1 expulsion of eight Palestinians. Two others were injured by bullets in that demonstration. Nidal Abdul Karim

Hamdan Sawafat, 17, from Toubas, was killed by bullets in his head and neck Aug. 21.

SERIOUS INJURIES: Intrauterine fetal death from tear gas continues to be a serious issue. One physician estimates that there have been at least 400 cases in the second and third trimesters of pregnancy alone, where the relationship between the tear gas and the miscarriage is clearer. He refuses to speculate about the number of first trimester miscarriages caused by the gas. Husan village was under curfew from July 28 to Aug. 10; tear gas was used repeatedly and intensively. Three sisters temporarily staying in their parents' home, Fahima Mohammad Ahmad Zaoui, 30, four months pregnant; Adiyah Mohammad Ahmad Zaoui, 25, four months pregnant; and Sa'ad Mohammad Ahmad Zaoui, 20, nine months pregnant, all lost their babies from the gas. A 20-year-old woman from Kalkiya, six months pregnant, who miscarried from tear gas thrown into her home, remained in Iti-had hospital in Nablus Aug. 1. In Silat Al Harthieh Aug. 10 a woman eight months pregnant lost her baby after being tear gassed; many others were overcome by the gas. Partly because of the number of extremely long curfews during this period, our information regarding recent miscarriages is more than usually incomplete.

In addition to the deaths of

three workers in Or Yehuda there have been a number of beating attacks on Palestinian workers in Israel. Their Jewish employers are also beaten when they try to defend them. Four Hassids (ultra-orthodox Jews) poured a bucket of concentrated soap over the head of a 24-year-old man from Hares (Tulkarm) in Netanya Aug. 4, blinding him for several hours. About 50 more Hassids participated in beating him after the soap had been poured. Netanya hospital refused to treat him, claiming that there was no eye doctor. He was taken to Mair hospital in Kfar Saba and then to an eye doctor in Nablus.

It is impossible to know how many people are being brutally beaten. Three young people from Jabalya, 7, 11, and 15, arrested July 29, were found near the fence of Ansar 2 detention centre Aug. 2 severely beaten. They were treated at the UNRWA clinic and then taken back to the camp. Among eight people beaten in Gaza City Aug. 3 were two 5-year-old boys. Two mentally retarded people, 12 and 21 years old, were among those beaten and left in the street in Jabalya Aug. 7. Injuries in Gaza City from beating Aug. 9 include people 12-70 years old; one is a 50-year-old woman. Many people, including young and old people, are beaten in their homes under curfew. As with tear gas miscarriages, the curfews make that information extremely difficult to gather or assess.

OPEN FORUM

Terrorists

TWO Israeli members of a Jewish terrorist organisation, announced last week over the Israeli TV that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir masterminded the assassination of Folke Bernadotte, the appointed U.N. Middle East mediator for the Palestine problem in 1948.

I need perhaps not emphasise, in this connection, that the assassination of Bernadotte was not the first nor the last crime committed by Shamir and his gang against innocent Palestinians and British. There is on record a long list of criminal acts committed by Shamir, that he was sentenced to death after a fair trial by a British court.

It is no secret that the two notorious terrorist organisations headed by Shamir and his predecessor, Menachem Begin, were founded solely and wholly to eliminate any body who did not blindly support the creation of a Jewish state on lands belonging to the Palestinian Arabs. Bernadotte as a matter of fact supported the Israeli state, and lost his life simply because he recommended some modifications to the frontiers and also recommended the return of the refugees who fled their homes because of Jewish terrorism. Notwithstanding his past criminal record, Shamir receives red carpet treatment when he visits Washington, whilst this same Washington refuses to talk to the PLO which represents the victims of Shamir and his clique, although the PLO is now earnestly seeking a peaceful and just solution to the 70 year old Palestine problem. How does the U.S. government expect to achieve peace in the Middle East, when she does not talk to one of its principal parties.

B.I. Ennab

LETTERS

Muslim Umma's common markets

DURING my last visit to Saudi Arabia for Haj this year I came across an article "Towards Greater Maghreb" in Arab News, Jeddah, dated June 12, 1988, and was much interested if this idea may be further expanded to include the rest of the Muslim countries also. In view of this I suggest that a proposal may be put up in the next meeting of the Organisation of the Islamic countries for the establishment of five regional economic committees as below. These will help closer ties, better cooperation and coordination, development and progress, like the European Economic Committee.

Sub organisation of the northern Muslim countries, to include, Albania, Cyprus, Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan (when liberated) and Pakistan.

Sub organisation of the eastern Muslim countries to include, Maldives, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Dar-Ul-Salam and Moro (Provisional).

Sub organisation of the central Muslim countries to include, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, U.A.E., Oman, North Yemen, South Yemen and Palestine (Provisional).

Sub organisation of the western Muslim countries to include, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Upper Volta, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and Polisario (if decided to be independent).

Sub organisation of the southern Muslim countries include, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Eritrea (Provisional), Djibouti, Somalia, Camerouns, Uganda and the Comores.

M. Abbas Akhtar
Lahore,
Pakistan.

'There is only one option for Israel'

The following are excerpts from an address made by senate speaker Ahmad Lawzi to the conference of the International Parliamentarian Union that was held in Sofia, Bulgaria Sept. 19-24.

THE QUESTION of Palestine is one of the most important hotbeds of tension that has been threatening peace and stability in the Middle East and world peace over many decades, because in fact it is the crux of the conflict in our region which is vital to world peace and prosperity. It is the tragedy of the Palestinian Arab people and the occupation by Israel of its homeland where it has been living for thousands of years. This occupation took place twenty one years ago. Israel continues its aggression and settlement policy, expels that people, confiscates its properties, destroys its houses and denies its rights.

Israel — as you are aware — refuses United Nations resolutions and other peace initiatives and proceeds with its racist policy totally indifferent to human rights, the U.N. Charter and the Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians During War and Under Occupation.

The Palestinian people — in the light of the fruitlessness of the international efforts for lifting oppression — could not find a way for its salvation other than waging its uprising which went into its tenth month and to declare its rebellion against the Israeli occupation and the colonisation of its homeland.

The whole world bears and sees in pain and astonishment and disapproves the tragedies of killing, terrorism, displacement and collective penalties by which Israel encounters the stone-throwing children, women, old-aged persons and unarmed civilians in the occupied Arab territories.

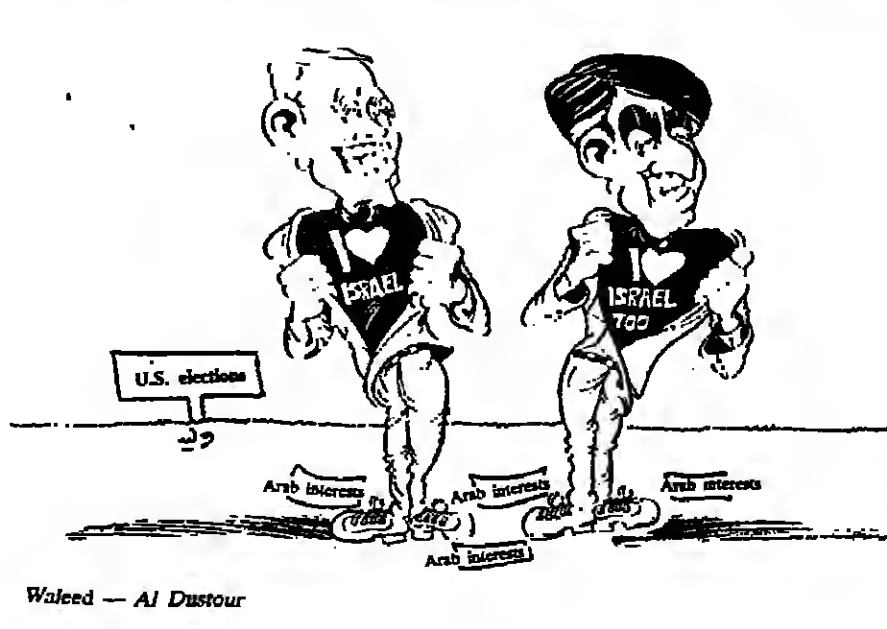
Israel continues its disregard of and indifference to international resolutions when it announces

parties; in response on its part to the request of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; and in deference to the Arab and international trend to support the right of the Palestinian people in its homeland and its self-determination on its soil; Jordan decided to dismantle its legal and administrative links with the occupied West Bank so that the Israeli reality will be exposed as an imperialist country in the face of the Palestinian people and the legitimate representative thereof, the PLO.

Today Israel has one option in front of it, that is the option of the Palestinian people and to deal with it and with its organisation in order to achieve a comprehensive and just solution to the question of Palestine within the framework of an international conference in which shall participate the parties to the conflict and the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

The other serious issue to which the world is addressing its attention and care is Iran-Iraq War. Now after eight years of the insistence by Iran to wage this destructive war and its continuation against Iraq, after procrastination that continued for more than a year, Iran responded to U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and agreed to stop the war.

I call on our conference to ask Iran to give in to the international will and to responsibly and sincerely obligate itself to solve its conflict with Iraq and to accept a comprehensive, just and peaceful settlement by virtue of which it recognises Iraq's full right to Shatt Al Arab, to respect the freedom of navigation in the Gulf, to accept to live in peace within the framework of good neighbourhood, and the non-interference in the internal affairs of each of the two countries and the other Arab Gulf States.



Waleed — Al Dustour

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Millions of locusts darken sky over Khartoum

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Millions of red and grey locusts darkened the sky over Khartoum for 90 minutes Monday morning, some landing on cultivated fields along the Nile to devour the crops. Huge swarms of the insects began arriving about 7.30 a.m. (0430GMT) and left at about 9 a.m. (0600GMT). The sun was completely covered for almost half an hour of the 1½ hour period. Officials had no immediate estimate of the size of the swarm, which came in from the east and moved in a westerly direction, or the amount of damage it left behind. Torrential rains caused disastrous flooding in Khartoum last month, and experts said the greening of normally barren desert areas created perfect breeding grounds for locusts. Earlier this month, Agriculture Minister Al-Fatih Al-Tigani said Sudan's locust threat had entered "a critical stage." He said that the government had destroyed half of about 60 potential swarms in the country but that Sudan lacked sufficient insecticides or equipment to spray all agricultural lands facing an invasion.

Egypt concerned about helicopter theft

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — The foreign ministry on Monday summoned the Cypriot ambassador and relayed Egypt's concern about the disappearance from Larnaca airport of a helicopter whose ownership is disputed between a West German and an Egyptian company. Yehya Rifaa, an assistant to Foreign Minister Esmat Abdel Meguid, told Ambassador Alecos Shampos of "Egypt's concern about the theft of the plane." The ambassador assured Rifaa that an investigation was under way and that Cyprus would do all it can to ensure rights of the Egyptian company are protected. Ministry sources said, on Sept. 18, Cypriot police charged a West German pilot, Hans Wolfgang Zigel, with stealing the helicopter from the airport on the eastern coast of Cyprus. Police sources said they believed Zigel flew the aircraft to northern Cyprus. The helicopter had been impounded by court order after its arrival at Larnaca from Egypt in January 1987, pending settlement of a dispute between a West German and an Egyptian company over its ownership.

Pipeline leak threatens Abu Dhabi

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Corrosion has holed an oil pipeline off the United Arab Emirates and forced the complete suspension of a 15,000-barrel per day production from an offshore oil field, oil industry executives reported Monday. The sources, who could only be identified as Japanese, said production at the central Mubarrak oil field, 25 kilometres west of Abu Dhabi, was suspended on Aug. 23, when the first of six holes was discovered. The oil field is operated by Abu Dhabi Oil Company-Japan, ADOC, a joint venture between the state's national oil company and the Japan Oil Development Co. The sources said ADOC clamped a state of emergency and was trying to combat pollution from the first hole, some 15 kilometres of Mubarrak island. That crack alone has already leaked an estimated 15,000 barrels.

Hart in Syria for U.S. hostage talks

DAMASCUS (R) — Former U.S. Democratic presidential hopeful Gary Hart arrived in Syria Monday for a three-day visit centred on efforts to free American hostages in Lebanon. He told Reuters he would also discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Iran-Iraq peace talks. "I am here to learn as much as I can on all these issues. I visited some countries in the region and did not have a chance to visit Syria. This is my first visit," he said. Syria is the main foreign power broker in Lebanon where ten Americans

are among people missing and believed kidnapped. "As you know, the hostage issue concerns all Americans. It concerns the government a great deal. We hope the hostages will be able to return safely home some way," Hart said. He said he wanted to learn the Syrian view on the crisis in Lebanon after parliament's failure to elect a new president there left the war-torn country with two rival governments. Asked if he was acting in any way for the Reagan administration Hart said: "No. President Reagan will never give me an assignment."

Iranians execute Iraqi

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Monday executed an Iraqi they say they found guilty of spying for Iraq and of planting bombs, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said. IRNA, monitored in Cyprus, said Qotbeddin Faramarzi was executed early Monday in the west Iranian city of Bakhtaran (formerly Kermanshah). Executions are usually by firing squad in Iran. The agency said the man was found guilty at a court martial of spying and planting bombs in Bakhtaran and in the capital, Tehran. Iran and Iraq are now involved in peace negotiations after fighting an eight-year-old war until a United Nations-negotiated ceasefire came into operation on August 20.

Shamir reports on polio outbreak

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir reported to the Israeli cabinet Sunday on an outbreak of polio that has afflicted 12 people but health officials rejected calls to vaccinate the entire population. Eight Israelis had been admitted to hospital with polio in the last few weeks and four others were found to be carrying the virus. No one has died yet, said a health official. He said the outbreak was limited and the health ministry had no intention of broadening the vaccination programme throughout the country.

'Germany thanks Iran for helping free hostage'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — West Germany has thanked Iran for helping secure the release of its last citizen held hostage in Lebanon and urged Tehran to use its influence on Lebanese extremists to free other foreign captives. The official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia, reported Sunday that parliament speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani received two messages from West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, expressing appreciation for efforts Iran exerted to free business executive Rudolf Cordes Sept. 12. IRNA said Kohl and Genscher "expressed hope that more hostages now in Lebanon would be released through Iran's mediation." It quoted Genscher as saying West Germany was willing to "expand" bilateral relations with Iran, but gave no further details.

Polisario names new 'foreign minister'

TUNIS (R) — The Polisario Front, fighting Morocco over the Western Sahara, said Monday it had appointed a new foreign minister of the self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR). He is Mohammed Sidati, former councillor to the SADR prime minister and secretary-general of the presidency, who takes over the foreign affairs portfolio in the second reshuffle of the SADR leadership since August 16. In the last reshuffle the number of ministers was reduced from 13 to eight after the United Nations handed a peace plan to Morocco and Polisario which accepted it with unspecified reservations on August 30.

Iraqis ponder diverting Shatt Al Arab waterway

By Salah Nasrawi
The Associated Press

BASRA, Iraq — With peace talks stalled over the disputed Shatt Al Arab waterway, Iraqi leaders are seriously considering diverting it through a man-made river to another waterway to restore access to the Gulf blocked by eight years of war with Iran.

The official Iraqi News Agency said President Saddam Hussein met with his top military aides several days ago to discuss "studies on diverting the Shatt Al Arab."

It is Iraq's only deep-water outlet to the Gulf and has been closed since the Gulf war erupted in September 1980.

The waterway, formed by the confluence of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, is the southern boundary between the two Gulf foes.

Iraqi leaders have been talking about diverting the 200-kilometre Shatt Al Arab since United Nations-sponsored peace talks deadlocked over the legal status of the waterway and Iraq's right of navigation.

Iraq is demanding that the waterway be cleared of sunken ships, mines and silt and reopened for shipping to implement the U.N.-sponsored ceasefire agreement that took effect Aug. 20.

Baghdad abrogated a 1975 treaty with Iran to share navigation just before the war broke in 1980. Iran insists the agreement is

still valid and says it will not budget until Baghdad accepts that.

Long-term solution

Iraqi officials insist that the diversion scheme is not just a means of pressuring Tehran to accept a new agreement that recognises "Iraq's full and historic sovereignty" of the waterway, but "a serious effort to solve a long-standing problem."

Clearing the Shatt Al Arab, which means river of the Arabs, could take up to five years during which Iraq would remain landlocked.

The scheme being considered involves digging a canal from the small port of Ma'qal on the Shatt Al Arab, a few kilometres north of Basra, southwest to the Khor Abdullah waterway in the northern end of the Gulf.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sadoon Hamadi, a member of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, has indicated that another option to reopen Iraq's access to the Gulf would be to dig a canal parallel to the Shatt Al Arab and take the water from it.

Either move would be fraught with political and military dangers and would dramatically alter the basis of the peace talks.

"Wherever the canal is, the Shatt would be un navigable," a Western diplomat said in Baghdad.

The diversion idea "is a bold move which Iranian leader also must have been studying," the

diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Iran's powerful parliament speaker, Hashemi Rafsanjani, last week said the dispute over Shatt Al Arab, which the Iranians call the Arvand River, could reignite the war.

He dismissed Iraqi threats to divert the waterway as "ridiculous" and stressed: "The quicker the river is cleared the greater benefit for both Iran and Iraq."

Feasible, practical

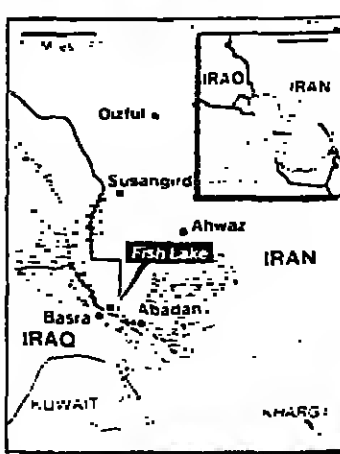
The former head of Iraq's ports authority in Basra, who asked that he was not named, told the Associated Press that the diversion scheme "is not only feasible, but practical from both a hydrological and topographical point of view."

"If we compare it with similar projects, like the Suez and Panama canals, the area under study is smoother and even forms a natural riverbed," said the former official, who is currently a lecturer at Basra University's engineering faculty.

"The Iranians... should take this matter very seriously," Hamadi said in a British Broadcasting Corp. interview last Thursday.

Iran has two commercial ports, Khorramshahr and Abadan, and a naval base at Khosrowabad on the Shatt Al Arab that have all been closed since the early days of the war.

While the Iraqis only have ab-



out 16 kilometres of coastline between the Shatt Al Arab's estuary and the Kuwaiti border to the west, Iran has 2,300 kilometres of coastline running all the way down the Gulf to the Arabian Sea.

International companies are waiting to start dredging the Shatt Al Arab since the start of the war. Several wrecks block the waterway, which is also littered with mines and unexploded shells and missiles.

Seventy-five ships have been stranded in the palm-fringed Shatt Al Arab since the start of the war. Several wrecks block the waterway, which is also littered with mines and unexploded shells and missiles.

Another 18 vessels are stranded in the Khor Abdullah, but these could be cleared more easily since sovereignty of that waterway is not in question.

Dinka tribesmen bear brunt of Sudan's war and famine

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

AL MUGLAD, Sudan — The Dinkas, tall, proud and war-loving tribesmen who once lorded it over southern Sudan, have suffered heavily under the twin ravages of war and famine.

The authorities regard them as possible collaborators with rebels, Arab militias — armed by the government for the declared purpose of self-defence against the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) — have stolen their cattle, burned their villages and abducted women and children.

Rival tribes in the south have been only too happy to watch the disintegration of the Dinkas, according to foreign relief officials.

Even rebels of the SPLA, mainly Dinkas themselves, have not spared fellow-tribesmen. Human rights activists in Sudan and abroad say the rebels have forced some civilians to do hard labour for them and have killed others for refusing to join the SPLA.

SPLA attacks on Arab bordermen venturing into the northern fringes of the south with their cattle have triggered reprisals for which the Dinkas have paid in blood.

The Dinkas, Sudan's largest single ethnic group, comprised three to five million of the estimated six million people living in the south before the guerrilla war's destruction of the agricultural cycle created famine conditions.

No one knows how many are left. Some reports say half the south's population tried to flee to other parts of Sudan or to Ethiopia in search of food and security.

About 3,500 southern refugees, mainly Dinkas, have reached a camp at the remote town of Al Muglad in South Kordofan Province. Most of them are suffering from severe malnutrition and diseases including malaria, measles, diarrhoea, typhoid and dysentery.

Starving to death

More than 200 have died since July and the camp's relief workers fear that up to half of the rest could be wiped out in heavy rains and cold weather this month.

In a camp at the town of Al Meihim further south, almost 3,500 people, mostly Dinkas, have starved to death since June and the outlook is bleak for up to 30,000 more refugees there.

Almost none of the people in the Al Muglad camp had shoes and only a few wore sufficient clothes. They made gestures indicating their hunger and need for clothing to a group of visiting reporters.

"They feel they lost a lot of their dignity when they lost their clothes," said one of three nurses from the Irish charity concern which runs the camp, 470 miles southwest of Khartoum.

But refugees said they lost their dignity, long before they began

the punishing trek to northern Sudan, when they lost their cattle to hungry and unruly rebels or to raiding militias.

Dinka life revolves around cattle. "Take the cows away and the Dinkas have very little to live for," said one relief worker in South Kordofan.

Young Dinkas sing of their valour in terms of favourite bulls and of their future wives in terms of cows. Cattle are the symbol of wealth and the means to pay a bride's dowry.

Before the guerrilla war began in 1983, educated Dinkas dominated jobs in the then-autonomous south and were jealously regarded by smaller tribes as the rich men of the region.

United Nations and relief officials in Khartoum blame the Dinka ordeal mainly on the SPLA, citing frequent rebel ambushes of relief convoys and a standing threat to shoot down planes flying over the south without rebel permission.

Waiting for Garang

A relief operation by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to feed one million southern famine victims has been stalled for more than a month because SPLA leader John Garang, a Dinka, is unavailable to give the go-ahead.

The Dinkas who managed to reach Al Muglad or Al Meihim are now unwanted guests in the land of the Al Mesiriah tribe. The two tribes traditionally

fought over grazing lands, but their animosity is now further fuelled by religious differences. The Mesiriah, like the majority of northern Sudanese, are Muslims whereas the Dinkas are animists or Christians.

The SPLA launched its war with the declared aim of freeing the south of what it regards the domination of Arabs from the Muslim north.

Soldiers from local army garrisons guard the Al Muglad and Al Meihim camps at night to fend off possible Mesiriah attacks, but relief workers said the camp at Al Muglad was raided in both July and September.

Relief workers said English-speaking Dinkas were desperately needed in the camps to translate for nurses and doctors, but security authorities were suspicious of Dinkas with qualifications.

"We don't have a single educated Dinka in the camps. Those with any education are either in Khartoum or have joined the SPLA," one relief worker said. The Mesiriah regarded the Dinka camps as a health hazard and instantly blamed any sickness among them on the presence of the Dinka refugees, relief workers said.

"Don't run away with the idea that the Dinkas are angels," one relief worker said. "It just so happens now that the balance of power is heavily in favour of the Arabs."

"After all, the Dinkas here are starving while the Mesiriah have Kalashnikov rifles."

Ozal staying despite referendum defeat

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said Monday his ruling Motherland Party would stay in power despite defeat in a constitutional referendum.

Ozal, who last week said he might quit politics if he did not win enough "yes" votes in the plebiscite, indicated firmly that he would not step down.

"We will be in power for four more years. The result is quite satisfactory for us," the pro-Western conservative said on state television.

Against Anap (the Motherland Party) ooze of the other parties has been able to become an alternative to us, not even in

the worst conditions for us."

Nearly two-thirds of these voting in Sunday's referendum opposed the amendment that would have brought forward local elections to November from next March.

The provisional figure of 35.1 per cent voting "yes" to change compared with the 36.3 per cent vote from the 26.6 million electorate which gave Ozal victory in last November's general election.

"The support given to Ozal is not sufficient. He is a man who can't be trusted... The nation said 'No' but he insisted on staying," Erdal Inoc, head of the opposition Social Democrat Populist Party, told reporters after the

referendum.

Ozal's Motherland Party has 292 seats in the 450-seat parliament.

Opposition parties portrayed the referendum as a confidence vote in Ozal, whose free-wheeling economic policies have pushed up inflation to 78 per cent.

"What was rejected by the nation is the government... (and) Prime Minister Ozal himself," said Suleyman Demirel, a four-time premier who heads the centre-right True Path Party (TPP).

"If you look for a winner in this (referendum), it is the nation itself. There are new conditions in Turkey now. No one can claim

that nothing has happened," he said.

Motherland officials said Ozal's repeated threats to resign last week had boosted the "yes" vote, which public opinion polls two weeks ago showed was running at around 26 per cent.

Ozal has promoted wider democracy within NATO-member Turkey and closer ties with the West since taking office in 1983 after three years of army rule crushed extremist political violence.

"(Referendum) voters have shown their preference for stability," Oktay Eksi, a political columnist with the mass-circulation daily Hurriyet, said on television.

Taha Akyol, of the conservative daily Tercuman, said: "The political picture seems to be settled. Despite the inflation problem, stabilisation in Motherland votes shows its foundations are solid."

Ozal is viewed widely as the only person who can cement factions in the broad-based Motherland Party, embracing politicians from the religious right to Western-style liberals.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Lebanese go back to work amid standoff

(Continued from page one)

politicians denounced it and pledged to support Gemayel's last incumbent government, led by acting Prime Minister Salim Hoss.

Shops, banks and other businesses opened Monday after being closed since Thursday. Government employees returned to conflicting orders from both cabinets demanding their loyalty.

Most civilians grabbed food and hid at home over the weekend because of fears that the absence of a president and deadlock between the rival administrations would ignite fresh violence.

Apun summoned Arab diplomats to meetings Monday, seeking recognition of his government, after Syria rejected his rule as illegal, renewing backing of the Hoss cabinet.

An aide said Aoun asked the diplomats to "inform your governments that the cabinet appointed by President Amin Gemayel before his term ended is the legitimate executive body in Lebanon."

The source, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity, quoted Aoun as saying his government's aim was to "speed up the election of a new president."

The first to meet with Aoun in east Beirut Monday were the Iraqi charge d'affaires, Sabhar Al-Hadithi, and the head of the Egyptian interest section, Hassan Shash. They are Cairo's and Baghdad's most senior representatives in Beirut.

"We expressed to Gen. Aoun our hope that the Lebanese would agree on the election of a new president to unite the country and avert the evil of parti-

tio," Shash added.

Hadithi said Baghdad was for "the election of a new president and supports Lebanon's unity."

Hoss and Aoun each had a series of meetings at the weekend with envoys of the five member states of the United Nations Security Council as they struggled for recognition. None of the diplomats or their governments made any commitments publicly to either side.

On Monday, Hoss said in west Beirut that it "is not a governmental issue. The problem is the fact that parliament hasn't met to elect a new president."

"The problem ends as soon as parliament meets to elect a president," Hoss told reporters, in the first indication since Thursday that there may still be hope for reunifying government institutions.

Radio stations said an American envoy was due to Damascus for talks on the government tug-of-war in Beirut.

Syria and the United States agreed earlier this month to support Parliamentarianism Mikhael Daher as a consensus candidate for president.

Pro-Syrian political sources said Hoss and his cabinet were trying to convene a meeting of former presidents, prime ministers and other top officials to rally opposition to Aoun.

Thousands of Palestinians attended Mattar's funeral, chanting slogans and waving Palestinian flags. Police fired tear-gas at the demonstrators, the photographer said.

Mattar's death brought to 283 the number of Palestinians killed since the Dec. 8 start of the uprising.

Widespread clashes erupted throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and at least 68 Palestinians were wounded, hospital officials said.

Among the wounded was an 11-year-old deaf-mute boy from Gaza City who was in serious condition with a bullet wound in the chest, the officials said.

The worst clashes erupted in Gaza City where troops opened fire on stone-throwing Palestinians, hospital officials said.

The one-day strike, the fourth this month, was ordered by the United National Leadership of the Uprising and the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas.

Streets were deserted in towns, villages and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza. Shops were shuttered, transportation came to a halt and Palestinians stayed home from their jobs.

In Bethlehem, about 20 white bedsheets sprayed with red swastikas fluttered from electricity poles near the Church of the Nativity.

Dozens of soldiers patrolled the deserted cobblestone alleys of Bethlehem and troops searched cars with blue West Bank licence plates at two checkpoints along the main highway leading to Jerusalem, seven kilometres to the north.

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G-7 statement underpins dollar; Officials stress farming sector role

Gold tumbles to 21-month low

LONDON (R) — The dollar firmed Monday after major industrialised nations reaffirmed their commitment to stable exchange rates, while gold fell to a 21-month low as market concern about inflation eased, dealers said.

Finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven (G-7) nations meeting in West Berlin during the annual International Monetary Fund/World Bank gathering said Saturday that inflation was under control and they endorsed the present pattern of exchange rates.

Last month when speculators tested this commitment to stable currency rates by bidding up the dollar, central banks of the G-7 nations — Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, the United States and West Germany — had to spend billions of dollars to halt the U.S. currency's rise.

In an apparent attempt to head off another speculative assault on the dollar, the G-7 dropped from

their statement Saturday some key wording on currency policy that had been contained in their last three communiqués.

That wording — that they did not want a further dollar fall — was taken by speculators as a green light to buy dollars after it was repeated by G-7 leaders at their summit in June.

This time around, the policy-makers simply emphasised their continued interest in stable exchange rates and backed that up with public statements at press briefings afterwards.

Monday morning the dollar's undertone was firm. At one point it touched 1.855 Deutschmarks and 134.83 Japanese yen against the dollar, the G-7 dropped from

and 134.43. "The G-7 meeting has not really changed anything — the commitment to stability, intervention, all this was expected," said one dealer with a leading U.S. bank in London.

"The market was expecting exactly what came out of the meeting," said another London-based currency trader.

But some dealers saw the market testing the central banks' will to curb the strength of the dollar.

"Following the G-7 meeting central banks will find it harder to stop the dollar rising on good news," said David Cocker, senior corporate advisor at Chemical Bank, London.

The 1.855 mark level is considered by many dealers as a likely trigger point for central bank intervention.

"If we were to break through 1.855 then we would be looking at 1.92," said Nick Murphy, currency analyst at Barclays De

Zoete Wedd in London. The dollar's strength gave another knock to gold which has tumbled \$40 an ounce this month as concern about inflation waned on the world's financial markets.

Higher interest rates and ample supplies of gold have also been factors in the decline of bullion which was quoted as low as \$387.35 an ounce in Europe Monday morning.

The metal's morning fixing in London was \$389.05 an ounce — its lowest setting since December 1986. It was fixed Friday afternoon at \$400.35.

Falling oil prices have been another key factor pushing down the gold price as they point to lower inflation.

Oil remained weak Monday with traders awaiting the outcome of a Madrid meeting of key OPEC ministers, members of the group's price monitoring committee.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Tabbaa has said that investments in any field would contribute to developing the national income and would lead to raising the standard of living for individuals and achieve economic independence and financial strength.

Speaking at a seminar held Saturday at the Professional Associations' Complex, Tabbaa discussed the government's recent economic measures and their implications for the agricultural sector in the country.

The minister said that the government has carried out its duty in this field and urged businessmen to take the initiative to participate in the development process.

He said that serious studies and careful planning and organisation were the most important elements for the success and productivity of investments. He pointed

out that his ministry's specialised departments were always ready to help investors and to provide them with needed assistance.

The minister called on businessmen to benefit from the latest technologies in farming and industries towards the increase in productivity and improvement of quality.

Agriculture Minister Marwan Hmoud, also speaking at the seminar, said that the recent economic measures, which aim at supporting and reactivating investments were not only technical, but also comprised of productive economic steps.

He said the government was looking forward to a bigger role by food and farming industries and that success in this field would achieve more independence for the farming sector.

Agricultural engineer Mohammad Abdul Aziz delivered a speech at the seminar in which he said that the farming sector was a

vital sector in the Kingdom's national economy in terms of its contribution to the national income or its employment of labour and guaranteeing food security. Abdul Aziz called on the government to handle the agricultural sector with utmost care and sensitivity because it is directly linked to the land and the people.

He urged the government to stop complete openness in the market and to adhere to protecting small producers and to issue incentives to improve productivity and exports through subsidies.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday rates					
Local selling rates in file					
Belgian franc (for 100)	95.40	96.40	Saudi riyal	105.90	106.80
Dutch guilder	176.90	178.70	Syrian lira (for JD 1)	900.00	97.00
French franc	61.70	62.80	Lebanese lira (for JD 1)	900.00	950.00
Italian lira (for 100)	26.90	27.20	Iraqi dinar	272.50	282.50
Japanese yen (for 100)	274.70	277.40	Kuwaiti dinar	277.20	283.50
Swedish crown	61.00	62.00	Egyptian pound (new)	164.20	169.50
Swiss franc	248.30	254.00	Qatari riyal	109.10	110.10
U.K. sterling pound	663.50	671.20	UAE dirham	108.10	109.00
U.S. dollar	399.20	401.50	Omani riyal	1032.00	1040.00
Deutschmark	212.00	214.60	Bahraini dinar	1035.00	1059.00

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for September 26, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	286150	JD 370593	308
Top three companies:			
Housing Bank	89623	JD 168543	15
Jordan Spinning and Weaving	83325	JD 74906	91
Arah Bank Ltd.	160	JD 17360	2
Parallel market:	3000	JD 2520	—
Development bonds:	194	JD 1950	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663891	Jordan Commercial Centres	603507
Ministry of Supply	663821	Free Zones Corporation	642001
Ministry of Finance	636321	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Planning	644466	Amman Chamber of Commerce	660121
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Industry	644747
Ministry of Communications	847391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662253
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	647378
Income Tax Department	660151	General Statistics Department	846171
Central Bank of Jordan	630301	Jordanian Businessmen Association	680663
Amman Customs Department	772181		
Social Security Corporation	643000		
Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

Ooe Sterling	1.6615/25	U.S. dollar	
Ooe U.S. dollar	1.2220/30	Canadian dollar	
	1.8875/85	Deutschmarks	
	2.1280/90	Dutch guilders	
	1.5973/83	Swiss francs	
	39.53/56	Belgian francs	
	6.4220/70	French francs	
	1407/1408	Italian lire	
	134.70/80	Japanese yen	
	6.4775/4825	Swedish crowns	
	6.9530/80	Norwegian crowns	
	7.2325/75	Danish crowns	
Ooe ounce of gold	389.25/390.00	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The share market closed lower in dull trading as traders marked time ahead of Wednesday's release of August balance of payments data. The All Ordinaries Index fell 7.6 points to 1,543.5.

TOKYO — Share prices finished lower after see-sawing in limited activity amid uncertainty whether and for how long the market might close if the ailing emperor dies, brokers said. The Nikkei Index fell 59.17 points, 0.22 per cent, to 27,330.95.

HONG KONG — Market closed for mid-autumn festival holiday. SINGAPORE — Prices drifted lower due to lack of institutional interest and stop-loss selling. The Straits Times Industrial Index declined 10.61 to 1,023.10.

BOMBAY — Market closed for two-day accounting period. It will open again Wednesday.

FRANKFURT — Prices firmed slightly in quiet trade. Some dealers said the market was anchored by domestic institutional buying programmes. The Real-Time 30-share Dax index rose 4.45 to 1,257.05.

ZURICH — Shares were higher in reaction to the firm dollar and Friday's Wall Street gains, but turnover was low. The All-Swiss index rose 6.2 to 910.7.

PARIS — Prices were firm on general confidence generated by weekend group of seven statements. The 50-share bourse indicator rose by 1.29 per cent.

LONDON — Shares traded within a very tight range and ended narrowly mixed in sluggish trading. At 1446 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 0.2 at 1,792.2.

NEW YORK — Stocks showed little change in very quiet trade. Dealers said there was no important news to move the market. The Dow fluctuated narrowly around Friday's close at 2,097.

Japanese unveil new programme to assist 'middle-income' debtors

WEST BERLIN (R) — Japan Sunday unveiled a new scheme to put its massive trade surplus to work in helping the debt-laden Third World.

Under the plan, the Export-Import Bank of Japan would extend loans together with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help middle-income debtors put their economies back on track.

"Japan is ready to make additional untied loans on a case-by-case basis to support mid-term efforts by middle-income nations to restructure their economies," Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita told the IMF's Interim Committee.

The move is the latest in a flurry of activity by monetary officials to find new ways to address the problem of the developing world's \$1,200 billion of debt.

The new Japanese initiative does not require that the money be spent buying Japanese goods. Traditionally Japan has tied such loans to the purchase of equipment made in Japan.

The programme is aimed at so-called middle income states — including big debtors like Brazil and Mexico.

The poorest debtors, in sub-Saharan Africa got a break on their debt burden under an accord the major industrial countries reached Saturday.

The new Japanese plan differs from one proposed by Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa at the economic summit of major industrial nations in June, which received a lukewarm reception.

Under that scheme, the IMF was supposed to administer a trustee fund to be set up with foreign reserves transferred by debtor countries. The fund would be used to guarantee bonds that the debtors would swap for existing loans they owe to commercial bank creditors at a substantial discount.

Sumita will present an outline of the new plan at the IMF general assembly Tuesday. But Japanese officials said details still have to be worked out.

The export-import bank will make its loans under the IMF extends credits under its various facilities, including the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) set up in June to help debtor nations facing balance of payments difficulties.

Sumita unveiled the plan on behalf of Miyazawa who was unable to be there because of the illness of Emperor Hirohito.

The amount of the money to be lent by the export-import bank will be decided on a case-by-case basis, a Japanese official said. He said finance ministers from many nations at the IMF meeting welcomed Japan's new programme.

Earlier Sunday, Sumita pledged a decline in Japan's huge trade surplus and said Japan deserved a bigger say in the IMF in line with its position as the world's number two economic power. "Give us firm domestic demand

and a substantial increase of imports of manufactured goods, I expect a steady decline in Japan's current account surplus in the years ahead," he said.

Japan has been criticised by the United States and others for its huge surpluses, and urged to export less and buy more of other nations' goods to help balance the global economy.

Sumita's comments clashed with a prediction by the IMF itself Sunday of a rise next year in Japan's current account surplus to \$80.9 billion from \$78 billion this year.

Sumita also told the IMF Interim Committee: "I strongly hope that Japan's quota share in the IMF will be in line with Japan's economic fundamentals now that its share in the World Bank is the second largest after the United States."

Japan has a 4.7 per cent quota in the IMF, less than the stakes of the United States, Britain, West Germany and France. Its 6.7 per cent World Bank stake is second only to America's.

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IMF sees strong global growth

BERLIN (AP) — Production and incomes will grow faster this year in Japan, the United States and West European countries than was expected after last October's stock market crash, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicts.

"The upward revision to the output projections has been particularly large in the case of Japan,

where (production) is now expected to grow by over 5.5 per cent in 1988," said the fund's semi-annual World Economic Outlook.

A slowdown to 4.2 per cent is seen for 1989.

U.S. growth is expected to be four per cent, the highest rate since 1984. But a greater slowdown is predicted in 1989 to 2.8 per cent, a return to the 1987 figure which was the lowest since the recession in 1982.

A fund official said that growth rates this year are higher than the

long-term trend, due partly to the delayed effect of the drop in the price of the dollar and the price of oil.

The cheaper dollar gave a boost to U.S. exports, which became cheaper and more saleable. Cheaper oil lowers production costs in many countries.

To get the average national income, experts just divide total production — the gross national product — by the total population.

Growth has also revived in West Germany and France,

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Iraqi chess team wins RJCF cup

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Royal Jordanian Chess Federation (RJCF) His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Monday attended the final chess match between the Jordanian and Iraqi teams at the Royal Jordanian Chess Club. The leader and members of the Iraqi chess delegation expressed gratitude to Jordan — under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein — and thanked Prince Mohammad for attending the match.

The RJCF press spokesman also thanked Prince Mohammad for supporting the RJCF activities and indicated that these matches are designed to consolidate cooperation between teams of the two countries and exchange expertise.

Prince Mohammad then handed a cup to the winning Iraqi team and medals to members of the two teams. The Iraqi team beat the Jordanian team by 12-8 points.

Baseball standings

NEW YORK (R) — Results of major league baseball games played on Sunday:

American League			
Boston Red Sox	6	New York Yankees	0
1st-Detroit Tigers	2	Baltimore Orioles	1
2nd-Detroit Tigers	7	Baltimore Orioles	4
Milwaukee Brewers	4	Oakland Athletics	2
Cleveland Indians	4	Toronto Blue Jays	3
Chicago White Sox	6	Kansas City Royals	5
Seattle Mariners	8	Texas Rangers	2
Minnesota Twins	6	California Angels	2
National League			
San Francisco Giants	2	Los Angeles Dodgers	0
Cincinnati Reds	2	Atlanta Braves	1
New York Mets	9	St. Louis Cardinals	7
Philadelphia Phillies	8	Montreal Expos	5
Pittsburgh Pirates	7	Chicago Cubs	4
San Diego Padres	9	Houston Astros	1

South African travel agency may sue Olympic officials

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African travel agencies may sue organisers of the Seoul Olympic games because South Korean authorities have refused visas to South African tourists to the games, a representative said.

“We have had certain undertakings that visas would be granted to people going on those packages and they have now gone back on those undertakings,” said Hendrick Conrade of the Association of South African travel

agencies.

Travel agencies have lost money and are considering taking legal action against games organisers, Conrade said on state-run South African radio.

Representatives of South African travel companies are in South Korea trying to sell tickets and accommodation booked for South Africans who have been refused visas, he added.

This year's Olympics have given South Africans a fresh reminder of their isolation. Barred from participating in the Olympics since 1960, South Africa cannot even get live television coverage of the Seoul games.

A South African fencing official who went to Seoul last week assuming he was accredited to help supervise the fencing events was sent home by South Korean authorities because of his nationality.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171-6

Olympic Medals Table

SEOUL (AP) — Medal table after Monday's events at the Summer Olympics (read gold, silver, bronze, total):

	G	S	B	T
Soviet Union	33	16	26	75
East Germany	27	21	19	67
United States	14	18	14	46
Romania	5	9	7	21
Bulgaria	7	7	6	20
China	3	8	9	20
West Germany	7	6	5	18
Hungary	8	5	2	15
Britain	3	6	6	15
South Korea	3	3	5	11
Italy	4	3	3	10
Australia	1	4	3	8
Poland	1	4	3	8
Japan	1	2	4	7
New Zealand	1	0	6	7
France	0	2	3	5
Sweden	0	2	3	5
Czechoslovakia	2	2	0	4
Netherlands	2	2	0	4
Yugoslavia	2	0	2	4
Canada	1	1	2	4
Finland	1	1	2	4
Norway	2	1	0	3
Switzerland	0	2	1	3
Denmark	1	1	0	2
Kenya	1	0	1	2
Morocco	0	0	2	2
Spain	1	0	1	2
Portugal	1	0	1	2
Sunshine	1	0	1	2
Tunisia	1	0	1	2
Brazil	0	1	0	1
Chile	0	1	0	1
Costa Rica	0	1	0	1
Senegal	0	1	0	1
Belgium	0	1	0	1
Greece	0	1	0	1

Soviet medal tally reaches 75

Arab and African athletes win Olympic races

SEOUL (R) — An Arab and an African athlete stole the glory on the fourth day of the Seoul Olympic athletics competition on Monday.

Kenya's Paul Ereng out-sprinted Brazil's defending champion Joaquim Cruz to win the men's 800 metres then Moroccan Moulay Ibrahim Boutaib made no contest of the 10,000 metres.

This time last year neither man was even running their Olympic distance. Now they have taken on the world's best, winning conclusively.

Ereng ran a masterly race. He was content to wait in the middle of the field until the final straight then accelerated past Moroccan Said Aouita on the inside before surging past a struggling Cruz on the outside.

Boutaib's performance was even more commanding. He was one of a breakaway group of four, then took the lead after the half-way mark and pushed on relentlessly to win in 27 minutes 21.46 seconds, the fourth fastest time ever.

Boutaib, who looks set to follow in Aouita's footsteps as one of the world's great middle and long distance runners, had run only four 10,000 metre races before Monday, concentrating instead on the 5,000.

Aouita was a hot favourite to win gold in the 800, but bad to settle for bronze behind Ereng and Cruz.

Boutaib has no doubts that his compatriot will bring Morocco a second gold.

“I am sure he will win gold in the 1,500,” Boutaib said.

America's Carl Lewis leaped into Olympic history Monday. The 10th day of the Seoul games also saw a golden-haired Dutch school teacher emerge from the pack to win a dramatic women's 82-kilometre cycling race.

Impressive Soviet and East German track and field victories put them well out front in the Seoul medals' race with a combined total of more than 140. The Soviets picked up another gold in weightlifting Monday night to lead with 33 golds and 7 medals overall. East Germany had 27 golds and a total of 67 medals. The United States trailed in third place with 14 golds and 44 overall.

Lewis, rebounding from his loss to Canada's Ben Johnson in the 100-metre dash, became the first Olympic long jump champion to retain his title. He led an American medal sweep with a leap of 8.72 metres to duplicate his victory of four years ago at Los Angeles.

Lewis' teammate, Roger Kingdom, also repeated his 1984 triumph in the 110-metre high hurdles, winning the Seoul event in the Olympic record time of 12.98 seconds — third fastest in history. He was the first 110 hurdler repeat winner since his countryman Lee Calboun won the event in 1956 and 1960.

Track and field

In the women's 800, East German runner finished one-two as Sigrun Wodars outkicked Christine Wachtel in 1:56.10.

The Soviet Union's Olga Bryzina won the women's 400 in 48.65 seconds, breaking the old mark of 48.83 set in 1984 by Valerie Brisco of the United States. The American defending champion faded to fourth on Monday.

Another Olympic mark was set by East Germany's Petra Felke with 74.68-metre toss of the javelin that won her the gold medal in the women's event.

Diving

American Greg Louganis, meanwhile, moved a major step closer to his goal of becoming the first diver to repeat as a double Olympic champion. He outper-

formed two Chinese contenders — Xiong Ni and Li Kongzheng — in the preliminary round of platform diving and led a field of 12 qualifiers into Tuesday's final.

Cycling
Day 10 of the Olympics began with Dutch rider Monique Kohl having to hitch a lift to the start of the individual cycling road race with arch French rival Jeannie Longo after the Dutch team's bus was involved in a crash.

Kohl, her pitagail died in the Dutch national colour of orange, won a mass sprint for the line.

Tennis

Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg was assured of a medal when he beat temperamental Italian Paolo Cane 6-1, 7-5 in swirling wind that sent debris floating past them on the centre court.

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Yerevan calm as army pulls out

MOSCOW (R) — Most of the Soviet soldiers deployed in the Armenian capital of Yerevan last week after a new ethnic flareup were pulled out over the weekend, a spokesman for the official Novosti press agency said Monday.

Armoured vehicles posted around government buildings during demonstrations over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region had been pulled out Saturday, the spokesman told Reuters.

"The situation is better today," he said by telephone from Yerevan. "Transport is working and some enterprises are back at work. It's a more or less normal working atmosphere."

In Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, a govern-

ment spokesman said children had gone back to school Monday but industry remained paralysed by strikes.

The latest round of tensions over Nagorno-Karabakh erupted after an Armenian was killed and 49 people injured in gun and knife clashes in the Azerbaijani territory.

The Sept. 18 incident in a village near Stepanakert was followed by mass demonstrations in

Yerevan, where Armenians are supporting Nagorno-Karabakh's demand to secede from Azerbaijani rule and become part of Armenia.

The Novosti spokesman said huge demonstrations were held in Yerevan's Opera Square Saturday and Sunday evenings, with speakers demanding annexation of Nagorno-Karabakh and an emergency session of the Armenian Supreme Soviet (parliament).

The assembly voted in favour of annexation last June, but one month later the Kremlin ruled out any change in the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, where the ethnic Armenian majority

population has been ruled since 1923 by Azerbaijan.

Last Wednesday, as tensions continued to grow in the mountainous enclave, the Kremlin clamped an overnight curfew on Nagorno-Karabakh and declared a state of emergency.

Moscow Radio said Sunday that the curfew was being observed in Stepanakert and lawlessness had declined, although some residents had been found with petrol bombs.

It said 695 firearms had been turned in to the authorities voluntarily and nearly 100 seized during searches conducted by interior ministry and army troops sent to the region.

In Armenia, the radio said,

calls were continuing for more information on the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh. It quoted one Communist Party official as warning that rumours spreading due to a dearth of news could spark new disorders.

The Soviet media have carried virtually no reports on the situation in the enclave, and the news blackout continued Monday with no mention of Nagorno-Karabakh in the party newspaper Pravda — the only morning daily to appear Mondays.

Telephone links between Moscow and Yerevan remained difficult. It took two hours to get through to the Armenian foreign ministry Monday morning, and officials there refused to provide any information.

Hirohito critical but remains stable

TOKYO (Agencies) — Emperor Hirohito, fighting what may be his last battle against fading health, was reported in stable condition Monday as thousands braved drenching rain to pray for his survival.

A bland announcement by palace officials Monday morning that the 87-year-old Hirohito's condition was stable failed to dispel a growing feeling in Japan that he is close to death.

Medical bulletins have been released at least twice a day by the officials but have declined to detail the exact nature of the emperor's illness.

These have shown Hirohito's temperature remains high while his blood pressure and pulse varied. The emperor has received nearly three litres of blood since this latest crisis began about a week ago.

At the palace, thousands of people braved incessant rain to offer their wishes for Hirohito's recovery. As of Sunday, 342,000 people had registered.

Among the well-wishers Monday were a group of Giant Sumo wrestlers led by the popular grand champion Chiyonofuji, who won the most recent Sumo tournament which concluded in Tokyo Sunday.

The emperor is an avid fan of the traditional Japanese sport and has attended the tournaments held in the capital. Palace officials said he was able to watch some of the tournament on television at the weekend.

The pace of life in this busy city is also slowing with major companies cancelling corporate functions such as the respected Asahi newspaper's 100th anniversary celebrations.

Street festivals and fireworks displays to mark the onset of autumn are being cancelled throughout Japan, including one of the biggest in the Ginza district, near the palace.

"Taking the emperor's illness into consideration, we have decided to call off our festival and other related celebrations including the Ginza parade," a city official said.

Government leaders have cancelled almost all their official work. Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and other ministers stayed at home over the weekend while Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno cancelled a visit to New York. Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa dropped out of the current International Monetary Fund meetings in Berlin.

Despite upbeat reports by government and palace officials, shares fell as the Tokyo stock exchange opened Monday due to mounting concern over the emperor's condition, traders said.

The emperor, who assumed the throne in 1926, has been under 24-hour care since he began hemorrhaging last Monday in the upper intestine or duodenum. In September 1987, doctors performed a bypass operation after an inflamed pancreas put pressure on his duodenum.

His condition took a turn for the worse Saturday when his fever soared to 39.2 Celsius. On Monday, his temperature was 36.7 Celsius.

COLUMN

Blind masseurs protest in Taipei

TAIPEI — Blind masseurs rapped police with their walking sticks as hundreds rallied to demand government action against their sighted colleagues. The 400 blind demonstrators, who were driven to the law-making legislative Yuan in Taipei by friends, tried to enter the building. But police blocked the blind protesters, and some hit the officers with their walking sticks. Police pushed them away. The protesters dispersed when lawmakers pledged to review their complaints. Kuo Kun-Hsiung, leader of the demonstration, complained that many massage parlours employ young girls as masseuses.

Crawford leaves famous opera

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Crawford, who is leaving the hit Broadway musical "The Phantom of the Opera" in October, says he needs a rest after two years with show. "It's like being an athlete," he said on the CBS television show "This Morning." "You have to have a rest period and then start up again. I mean I'm not finished with the Phantom. I want to come back and do it again." Crawford, who won a Tony Award for his portrayal of the Phantom, says the lavish musical has been an emotional experience.

Orient Express in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — Refurbished railroad cars from the legendary Orient Express arrived in Hong Kong Monday after a 15,000-kilometre odyssey from Paris with 60 passengers each of whom paid \$20,000 for the journey. The passengers were greeted at Hong Kong's Kowloon-Canton railway station by a police band and given bouquets of flowers by two contestants from the 1988 Miss Hong Kong pageant. Also on hand was the acting director of the railway, Ian McPherson. The passengers, mainly Japanese, were then whisked away in a bus to a hotel. Organisers said they were too tired to talk to reporters.

Shops for pampered pets

WALNUT CREEK, California (AP) — Specialty shops that cater to pampered pets are proliferating in California at a rapid pace, industry watchers say. Such stores are occupying more retail space, but far fewer operate outside California, said John M. McMillin, a food industry analyst with Prudential-Bache Securities in New York. "Only Californians would put their dogs on a diet," he said. "But I'm seeing more and more interest in people getting into this business." The stores provide such items as gourmet foods, handmade toys and European furniture. "People are definitely pampering their pets more. I find many of the people are more concerned with their animals' nutrition than their own," said Jan Edminster, owner of the pet shop.

'Super-sniffers' find radioactive canister

SHREVEPORT, Louisiana (AP) — An unemployed man with a pair of super-sniffing dogs earned a \$500 reward from the company that lost a container of weak radioactive material along a 40.2 kilometre stretch of highway. "It was found just outside Shreveport, north of the city, by an unemployed gentleman who asked to remain anonymous," Ron Evans, vice president and general manager of Trainer Surveys Incorporated, said Thursday. "He hit the streets with his two German shepherds, who sniffed it up about 182.9 metres from his house."

Limousine shortage in Seoul

SEOUL (AP) — A flood of foreign dignitaries for the Olympics has created a limousine shortage in a nation that has few cars. Officials said some 300 foreign dignitaries such as cabinet ministers and members of the International Olympic Committee are entitled to limousine service. But most are getting service below their status because there are not enough limousines available. "In normal circumstances, it could create a protocol problem, but we believe most of them understand the special problems at Olympic time," said Kim Ki-Ho, a transportation official of the Seoul Olympic Organising Committee. "So far, we have had no complaints," said Kim.



Haiti's new president, Prosper Avril, swears in forces chief in Port-au-Prince earlier this week. Major General Herard Abraham, right, as armed

the church courtyard.

A chair draped with embroidered vestments had stood at the foot of the altar, symbolising Aristide, who was whisked away

from the church attack by parishioners who shielded him with their bodies.

"Jean-Bertrand Aristide is the one chosen by God for Haiti to

denounce injustice, to show us the truth," Sele said at the service, which began solemnly and exploded into singing and chanting.

Haitians throng church to hail coup

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AP) — Thousands of worshippers hurst into clapping, cheering and singing at a Roman Catholic Church Sunday, celebrating the Sept. 17 coup that toppled Lieutenant-General Henri Namphy.

"For that great victory of Sept. 17, we thank you, Lord," the Reverend Antnain Sele declared in an emotionally charged sermon before 3,000 people who jammed Saint Gerard Roman Catholic Church.

He praised the soldiers who ousted Namphy and installed a new military government under Lieutenant General Prosper Avril. Soldiers had cited a massacre Sept. 11 at Saint John Bosco Roman Catholic Church as a key reason for their revolt.

In that attack, thugs wielding guns, machetes and clubs stormed the church in a Port-au-Prince slum, killing 13 people and wounding more than 70.

"Through Saint John Bosco Church to us here today, we thank you, Lord, for your work through our soldiers to rescue us," said Sele, who offered a special mass. "This mass is to thank God... for all these soldiers who put their heads together to help us."

The soldier's revolt led to the exile of Namphy in the Dominican Republic, which shares the

Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti.

Namphy had led the military junta that assumed power after President-for-life Jean-Claude Duvalier fled to exile in 1986. Namphy consolidated power in a June coup that overthrew a civilian president elected last January.

After Sunday's mass, about 1,500 people, including 150 survivors of the church massacre, marched to a suburban site where met by the Reverend Jean-Bertrand Aristide, leader of Saint John Bosco.

The crowd, many of whom had marched 12 kilometres, erupted in cheers upon seeing Aristide in his first public appearance since his escape during the massacre. "He's alive. He's alive," two women shouted.

Aristide, one of the most popular figures in Haiti, had repeatedly accused the Namphy government of condoning atrocities and of brutal repression.

Flanked by priests and nuns, Aristide waved and stood before the crowd for about 15 minutes. Speaking in a barely audible voice, he said, "God is with us. Don't lose courage. The cleaning up has just begun."

Earlier, about 2,000 people filled all seats and the aisle at Saint Gerard and 1,000 more thronged

Sad exit seen in store for Botha

JOHANNESBURG (R) — More isolated than ever, both within and outside the country, President P.W. Botha this week marks a decade as South Africa's supreme leader.

Spurned by many of his Afrikaner Volk (people) for straying from rigid apartheid segregation, Botha has failed to win a counterbalancing measure of credit from South Africa's black majority, moderate whites or world opinion.

Next month will provide definitive proof of whether Botha has achieved the goal he set for his leadership when he told South African whites they must "adapt or die."

Nationwide municipal elections Oct. 26 present the highest challenge the ruling National Party has faced in 40 years when the white supremacist Conservative Party attempts to wrest control of local government.

Political commentators are predicting a setback for Botha, who observes a decade in power Wednesday, in his campaign for gradual reform of the apartheid policies that have made South Africa a pariah state.

While the right wing accuses him of betraying the Afrikaner tribe, more liberal whites — among them moderate Afrikaners — fulminate over his failure to bolder in scrapping apartheid and bringing blacks into the political system.

"P.W. is a sad figure as he nears the end of the road," the anti-government Sunday Star said in a headline. English-language newspapers, which have been calling for him to step down, again asked whether Botha has the will to carry through reform.

Even the Afrikaans language press was less than fulsome in reviewing Botha's decade in office.

Rapport, the top-selling pro-government newspaper, raised doubts about his continued commitment to change.

"After a decade, the question is whether the National Party under the present leadership will continue undaunted on the (reformist) way it has set itself," its editorial said.

The cheeriest news for Botha on his 10th anniversary was an apparent breakthrough in regional foreign policy.

Talks now underway could end South Africa's involvement in the Angolan civil war and Pretoria's illegal, white minority rule in



P.W. Botha

Namibia.

South Africa is increasingly isolated in other areas.

Foreign bankers will not lend it money a falling gold price threatens its ability to pay its debts. Every week another foreign firm sells up and leaves as sanctions pressures mount, especially in the United States.

Almost every day urban guerrillas detonate a bomb. It took the imposition of a state of emergency and the detention without trial of about 30,000 people to stifle black protests in 1986.

Power expansion

The government has given itself new power to restrict its political opponents without informing them in person and may have some media reporting of court evidence, lawyers said Sunday.

In a proclamation mailed to lawyers last week, the government said it will no longer have to find and tell people before placing restriction orders on them.

Instead it has only to publish their names in the official government gazette, a Johannesburg lawyer told Reuters.

In a separate announcement, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee told a legal conference Saturday that the government was studying proposals to ban media reporting of some court proceedings until the final verdict.

The purpose, he said, would be to prevent unfounded allegations made in court from damaging the reputations of defendants.

Restriction orders are used to place people under house arrest or curfew, to limit the work they do, their right to attend meetings or to talk to the press.

Old ruling party, opposition prepare for polls in Burma

BANGKOK (R) — The long-ruling Burma Socialist Programme Party changed its name Monday ahead of general elections and opposition sources said leading pro-democracy campaigners would field candidates.

Official Radio Rangoon said the BSPP, which ruled Burma for a quarter century of increasing poverty and political repression, had become the National Unity Party.

Rangoon-based Western diplomats have said the followers of BSPP founder Ne Win would try to regain their dominant role in Burma by winning elections promised soon by the country's new military rulers.

The BSPP was purportedly overthrown by a military coup Sept. 18, but diplomats say the army's action was only a way of suppressing widespread dissent and keeping power in the hands of the old guard.

Leading dissident figures General Tin Oo, Aung San Suu Kyi and Brigadier Aung Gyi have reversed their opposition to the polls and will contest them, sources close to them said.

A close associate of former Defence Minister would soon register with the military government's election commission and would field candidates for all 472 parliamentary seats.

"They are now preparing to follow the rules and regulations of the commission," he said in a telephone interview.

The source declined to give details of the opposition's move, saying he believed his telephone was

being tapped.

The opposition rejected a compromise election offer made the BSPP a week before its overthrow, saying the party was incapable of running honest polls.

Last week, the three opposition figures decided to reject army-backed elections also. Aung San Suu Kyi, 43-year-old daughter of independence hero Aung Gyi, at that time dismissed the idea of elections being held while people were being shot.

The military government has said over 200 "destructive elements" have been killed since it took over. Dissidents, doctors and diplomats put the figure at closer to 1,000 and say most of the dead were unarmed pro-democracy demonstrators.

The streets of Rangoon were quiet Monday, but soldiers were still shooting. Radio Rangoon reported they shot dead 19 more looters in the capital and other areas of Burma.

In Mandalay to the north many people were being arrested, a diplomat said. "Anyone who was associated prominently with the opposition seems to be targeted, doctors, prominent educators, editors of the various newspapers," he said.

The government earlier this month ordered civil servants and all military personnel to resign from the ruling party and repealed the law authorising it to receive financial support from the government.

But the party, with 2.5 million full and candidate members before the latest resignations, remains a potent force that maintains offices throughout the nation of 38 million people.

Home fans lukewarm to Olympic fever

By Sonya Hepinstall
Reuters

SEOUL — Where are the home fans at the Seoul Olympics?

Many stadiums are half-empty and sport enthusiasts with experience of previous Olympics are asking why.

"Tickets were scalped for many times the original price at Los Angeles. The venues were packed. Where are the Koreans?" said one foreign visitor.

There are many answers. For one, Koreans are not crazy about all sports.

"The Olympics are less a sports event than a turning point for the Korean people," said one fan. "There's no tradition of sport here. There's emphasis on certain sports — Taekwondo, Judo, Soccer — but they couldn't care less about the rest."

Soccer has so far attracted 528,000 fans in the 28 matches before the semifinals, making it the best attended sport of the games so far, but the yachting venues in the southern city of Pusan, for example, are almost deserted.

"Koreans don't like dangerous hobbies. For generations children were told not to do such things as mountain climbing or sailing," said Yoo Sung-Gil, a former yachting official.

The Seoul Olympics Organising Committee (SLOOC) estimates 74 per cent of tickets have been sold, but that figure is not reflected in attendances.

"A lot of businesses bought tickets for foreigners who didn't show up," said Cho Seok, assistant director for overseas ticket sales at SLOOC.

Another factor in the lack of

support is that South Koreans have very little leisure time.

People work an average six days a week, taking about four days off per year. Many who do have free time have volunteered to work for SLOOC.

Some Seoul residents think Koreans are suffering from Olympic burn-out.

"After seven years of having the Olympics shoved down their throat, what do you expect?" said a foreign resident.

Western visitors are often perplexed by South Korean reactions to the games.

The opening ceremony, universally acknowledged as a huge success, was received with demure applause and serious expressions by the Koreans in the crowd, a great contrast to the behaviour of Americans and Europeans nearby who cheered wildly and punctuated each new surprise with ex-

clamations of delight.

"It was so solemn, it was no fun," complained one European viewer. "That's not what the opening ceremony in Barcelona in 1992 will be like, that's for sure."

"We are not a demonstrative people," said a Seoul city hall official. "We are not used to participating in celebrations. When a parade goes by we wave flags, stand back and nod our heads, saying yes, good show."

On the other hand, a brawl at an Olympic boxing match showed the emotions behind those cool exteriors can sometimes surface unexpectedly.

Home fans and five South Korean boxing officials invaded the ring Thursday to attack a referee who ruled against a local hero.

"It was stupid. It was childish behaviour," said one

Olympic organiser.

But it was not un-Korean. A few months before the games, one person was killed and more than 10 injured when baseball fans infuriated by the surprise loss of the home team started throwing bottles.

"Sometimes human beings cannot control their feelings," shrugged a local television announcer after the boxing brawl.

If visitors are sometimes mystified by their hosts, the feeling is mutual.

Some taxi drivers, for example, said they are fed up with the Olympic family.

"When they first came we wanted to be nice. We went out of our way to smile and try to speak English," said one taxi driver. "But foreigners accuse us of taking long routes and overcharging them. Now none of us wants to take foreigners."